SONA SUPPLEMENT / F1
For the people and of the people in the People's House

LEARNING / E1
A lesson on how acts of Congress affect daily life

ACROSS / A17
5 teens nabbed for rob-slay in Mandaue

WORLD / A28
19 crushed to death in Germany's Love Parade

Funnyman Redford White exits laughing

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHITE

COMEDIAN Redford White succumbed to brain and lung cancer yesterday morning. He was 54.

True to his calling as a funnyman, White took his final bow, not with tears but with laughter.

Friends who visited

FUNNYMAN A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, July 26, 2010 ++ Vol. 25 / No. 228

Much of US cooks in endless summer

WASHINGTON—When people in the nation's capital talked about an endless summer this week, they did not mean surfing or snorkeling (though they surely

HUCH A6

Rain brings instant flood to Metro

By Tarra Quismundo, Mike Morallos and Nancy Carvajal

RAINWATER EQUIVALENT to more than a fourth of the volume brought in six hours by last year's killer Tropical Storm "Ondoy" was dumped on Metro Manila in just two hours yesterday afternoon.

The downpour submerged large areas, tied up vehicular traffic and diverted domestic and international flights.

Heavy rains are expected today when President Aquino delivers his first State of the Nation Address as the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), a band of heavy clouds and thunderstorms, is forecast to remain during much of the week.

A new low-pressure area was spotted some 370 kilometers northeast of Aurora, the weather bureau said in an update posted at 5 p.m. yesterday. The ITCZ, however, remains the dominant weather system affecting the country, it said.

In Quezon City, the public safety office sent motorboats for rescue operations to Barangay Tatalon and Amoranto Avenue as floodwaters rose to more than a meter.

On the ground level of the Skyway in Pandacan City, across from Robinson's Hypermart, light vehicles got stalled in knee-deep floodwaters on the southbound lane, backing up vehicular traffic for hundreds of meters at about 2:45 p.m.

Due to poor visibility, two international and 11 domestic flights bound for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) were diverted to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Pampanga.

Rains brought by the ITCZ dumped 90.3 millimeters of rainfall between 12 noon and 2 p.m., according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

MAIN A23

FLASH FLOOD Residents of Mother Ignacia Avenue and Samar Street in Quezon City leave their homes after heavy rains submerged their neighborhood. NOEL CELIS/AFP

Enrile heads unity Senate

Belmonte leads much bigger House coalition

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A RUNAWAY WINNER in the battle for speakership, Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has forged an alliance in the House of Representatives much bigger than the "rainbow coalition" of then Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Unlike in the Senate where the battle for the presidency of that chamber went almost down the wire, the race for the speakership was settled fairly early—just days after the May 10 elections, when it was clear that Benigno S. Aquino III would emerge as the new President.

The only question then was how many would vote for Belmonte as the top honcho in the chamber, according to Mandaluyong City Rep. Neptali Gonzales II, who is set to be named as House Majority Leader and chair of the House committee on rules.

Belmonte is expected to be formally elected Speaker when the 15th Congress holds its inaugural session today.

A total of 220 to 230 representatives from the Liberal Party, Lakas-Kampi-Christian-Muslim Democrats, Nacionalista Party, Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino and other parties and party-list groups are expected to vote for Belmonte in a reflection of the popularity of Mr. Aquino, colleagues said.

"This is much bigger than former House Speaker Jose de Venecia's much vaunted rainbow coalition," Gonzales said.

Gonzales has yet to come up with a name for the Belmonte coalition after some members rejected his initial proposal to call it the "Coalition for Conscience and Reform."

BELMONTE: A21

NO-SHOW This seat has been reserved for former President and now Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a conference no-show for today's House opening.

GMA flies to Hong Kong

ALL EYES will be on her empty chair in Congress today.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo slipped out of the country on the eve of her successor's first State of the Nation Address (Sona), ostensibly to avoid hearing "shocking" revelations about how her presidency had left him with an almost barren treasury.

"She doesn't want to be humiliated," said Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. "Who would like to be there if you're the object of the speech of the President?"

President Aquino's Sona today at the opening of the 15th Congress has been described by Palace spokespersons as a "truth-telling" speech that will "shock and awe" Filipinos.

It will outline how the Arroyo administration had depleted this year's

GMA A13

Pangilinan, Villar fail to get needed 13 votes

By Christine O. Avendaño

A SURVIVOR of many political wars is keeping his grip on the Senate presidency, after all.

Earlier thought to be on his way out, Juan Ponce Enrile clinched the Senate leadership last night by obtaining the support of 21 senators—a powerful majority in the 23-member upper chamber of Congress.

Senators said the 86-year-old lawmaker from Cagayan was assured of his continued hold on his position following a series of meetings and sudden developments during the weekend.

The most dramatic was yesterday's last-minute announcement by Sen. Kiko Pangilinan, the erstwhile candidate of Malacañang, that he was withdrawing from the Senate presidential race in order to unify the chamber.

"It's a truly united Senate," Sen. Edgardo Angara said the business, saying that all blocs in the chamber had come together to support Enrile as their chief.

In a phone interview, Angara credited the sudden turn of events to efforts of the Liberal Party (LP), Nacionalista Party (NP) of Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. and other allies—including Aquino's—to come together and agree on a Senate President by the time the 15th Congress opens today.

Since late last week, Pangilinan had been the front runner in the fight for the Senate leadership.

Battle of Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino only loomed as an alternative candidate after the NP and LP candidates failed to get the 13 votes needed to win the Senate presidency.

"Since neither side (Villar and Pangilinan) were able to make it, we agreed with Villar and the others that we need to elect one because it would be embarrassing for the Senate if we

ENRILE: A21

State of nat'l budget: A tour of GMA chamber of horrors

By Amando Doronila

FACED WITH A CRIPPLING deficit, President Aquino is set to unveil in his first State of the Nation Address (Sona) today an apocalyptic picture of the ruinous of the depletion of the national budget left by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

ANALYSIS

Designed to shock the nation and to lay the blame for the financial malaise on the reckless spending of the preceding administration, the new President gave a preview of the central theme of his first Sona. The speech promises to be a tour into the chamber of horrors of the Arroyo era.

"Almost all of the funds that we were to use in the coming months have been stashed dry," Mr. Aquino said at the turnover ceremonies of the Philippine Army high command at Fort Bonifacio on Saturday.

The previous administration had spent most of the 2010 budget, leaving the new administration only 10 percent to spend for the next five months.

"You will be surprised that there is a big discrepancy be-

STATE: A21

Militants to push demands in Sona rallies today

By Jeannie Aning in Manila and Nestor P. Burgos Jr. Inquirer Visayas

READY WITH their "Persoy" egg-cum-effigy, militant groups are converging on the road leading to the Batasan Pambansa complex in Quezon City and in other urban centers in the country today to press longtime demands as President Aquino delivers his first State of the Nation Address (Sona).

The labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) yesterday said it had prepared an effigy of Mr. Aquino depicting him as a hatchling that came out of a dark's egg painted in the colors and stars-and-stripes motif of the American flag.

Dubbed the "American Persoy," the figure symbolizes the role supposedly played by the United States in "giving birth to a Noynoy presidency (by) interfering with the poll automation process, as well as its continued meddling in the new administration," said KMU chair Elmer Labog.

This intervention, Labog said, can be seen in the recent visit of a ranking Washington official, US Undersecretary of State William Burns, to the country.

"The mere fact that Aquino has willingly listened to US envoys while playing blind and deaf to Filipino workers' demands is a clear reason to protest on (the day of the) Sona," Labog added.

"Persoy" is apparently a play on "P-Noy" the President's preferred moniker.

Another labor group, the Partido ng Manggagawa (PM), challenged the new administration to hereinafter a "labor-first policy" and depart from one

MILITANTS: A6

EFFIGY, AGAIN A militant hoists the "P-Noy" effigy in time for the President's Sona.

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

6/29/2010 Lotto Results

6/29/2010 SUPER LOTTO 6/49

6/29/2010 SUPER LOTTO 6/49

P96,212,041.20

SC grants Webb request for DNA

ABADS IN GOV'T
Noy told: Heed public opinion

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SUPREME COURT has ordered the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to prove that it had turned over to the Parañaque Regional Trial Court (RTC) a vital piece of forensic evidence in the 1991 Vizconde rape-murder case.

The high court granted the request of Hubert Webb, one of six men convicted in the celebrated case, to make the NBI account for the missing vaginal specimen taken from 16-year-old victim Carmela Vizconde.

The Supreme Court vented from usual procedure when in April it unanimously granted Webb's longstanding request to subject to DNA analysis the specimen taken from Carmela during an autopsy.

Webb, convicted in 2008, has been asking for a DNA test since 2007 to see if the DNA in the recovered semen sample from the victim would match his.

The Vizconde case has been on appeal before the Supreme Court since 2007. The Court of Appeals in 2005 upheld the ruling of then Parañaque RTC Branch 274 judge now appeals court Associate Justice Amelita Tolentino.

The NBI, however, informed the Supreme Court that it no longer has the specimen and other laboratory reports, photographs and documentary evidence related to the case because it turned them over to the Parañaque RTC in 1996.

In its resolution, the high court ordered the NBI to show proof that it had indeed turned over the specimens to the Parañaque RTC.

It told the agency to explain the conflicting dates it made in its April 27, 2010 compliance report, where it said the specimens was turned over to the RTC as early as 1996.

The high court noted that an authorized report stated that "the specimen gathered is still existing and in the custody of the Bureau" as of April 23, 1997.

Webb, son of former Sen. Freddie Webb, pins his hope for an acquittal on a DNA analysis of the specimen to back up his defense that he was not of the country at the time of the crime and therefore did not rape and kill Carmela.

Webb and five other young scions of well-to-do families are serving life sentences for the rape-murder of Carmela and the murders of her mother, Estrellita, and little sister Jennifer in their home in BF Homes, Parañaque in 1991.

Others found guilty in 2008 were Antonio Lejano, Michael Gatchalian, Hospicio Fernandez, Miguel Rodriguez and Peter Estrada.

Two other accused remain at large, a certain Jerry Pilare and one Artemio "Dong" Ventura, who was allegedly the boyfriend of principal prosecution witness Jessica Alfaro.

Police officer Gerardo Biong served a jail sentence of 11 to 22 years for destroying evidence in the crime scene.

The brutal crime was discovered in the morning of June 30, 1991.

Estrellita Vizconde, 47, suffered 53 knife wounds; her debutante daughter Carmela had been raped before she was killed with 17 stab wounds, while her 7-year-old daughter Jennifer bore 10 stab wounds.

The first two sets of suspects were shelved before Webb and the other young men from prominent families were charged with homicide and rape in 1995. They were convicted on Jan. 6, 2000 mainly based on the eyewitness account of confessed drug addict Alfaro, who withdrew four years after the verdict.

The court ordered the NBI to explain what happened to the specimen now in the government, through the Office of the Solicitor General, filed a motion asking it to reconsider its decision to order a DNA analysis.

The University of the Philippines' Natural Science and Research Institutes was tasked by the high court to conduct the DNA analysis.

Webb submitted a manifestation in the high court, saying the government's failure to produce the semen specimen was "a denial of his constitutional right to due process which entitles him to acquittal."

He claimed that he was "treated unfairly and denied a complete defense against the charge against him" and that the said court "should have, at the outset, allowed DNA testing of the semen specimen."

He also asked for oral argument before the Supreme Court, claiming that his case could set a precedent in acknowledging the results of a DNA analysis in solving crimes.

HUBERT WEBB

ABADS IN GOV'T
Noy told: Heed public opinion

By Gil C. Cabacungan

PLEASE DON'T IGNORE public opinion.

This was the advice of Sorsogon Gov. Sally Lee Lovendino, an uncle of President Aquino, on the public opinion over the emergence of four members of the family of Budget Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad Jr. to positions of influence.

"That is a matter for the executive to decide. Sir, he has to do something about it," said Lovendino, brother of late Miguel Coop, chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. They are first cousins of Aquino's mother, the late President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino.

Aside from the elder Abad, his wife, Socorro Rep. Oroquieta Abad, has been nominated by Aquino's Liberal Party as senior vice chair of the House appropriations committee, his daughter, Ana Abad, has been appointed as head of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), and his son, Luis Abad, has been named chief of staff of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

All four positions have influence on the formulation and disposal of the budget, including cash board. The PMS head is also assisted to a World Bank official, Andrew Parker, raising fears of a possible bias in favor of a multilateral lender.

The World Bank has not responded to questions sent by the Inquirer on the possible influence of Parker and The Abad family to PMS heading in the Philippines.

Cojuangco acknowledged that the emergence of one family controlling many government positions had caused a public furor that should not be ignored. "We should listen to public opinion," he said.

Incoming Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said it was not for the LP to decide on the relatives against the Abads because it was the President who appointed the Budget Secretary and the PMS secretary.

Sorsogon considers the elder Abad his mentor from his college days while the secretary's daughter has been working for him as chief of staff when he became senator in 2007.

"It is up to the executive to decide on what he will do with the other Abads," said Belmonte, who defended the appointment of Abad's wife to the appropriations committee.

HONG KONG

Chavit says legal team helping son in drug rap

By Leonelo Balbin Jr.
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Rizon Star Governor Chavit Singson yesterday said his son, Rep. Ronald Singson, hired a legal team to represent him in a drug possession case he is facing in Hong Kong.

But Singson said he had not spoken to his son and was only relying on reports supplied by Ronald's friends and business associates who are now in Hong Kong.

He said the latest information he received was that a legal team was assisting Ronald, but he could not give further details.

Latest records from Hong Kong showed that Ronald, 41, was arrested at the Chek Lap Kok International Airport for possession of 28.3 grams of cocaine and two tablets of ecstasy on July 13. The records also showed that the court rejected Ronald's application for bail. He has been detained since his arrest.

Singson said he did not know the real story behind the arrest. "He will tell the story ... himself when he is available," he said.

In an earlier interview, Singson had said Ronald would arrive in the country next week. But reports said Ronald was scheduled to appear in a Hong Kong court on Aug. 19.

Singson said he would go to Hong Kong soon to check on his son.

The governor also apologized for his son's behavior, saying he would not tolerate the use of illegal drugs in his family and in the communities he's in.

"I sincerely apologize for whatever shortcoming my son had committed," Singson told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

"As government and to my own companions, I never tolerated (the use of) illegal drugs," he said.

The Singson family is engaged in the transportation and construction businesses. The family owns Dictas Bus Line, which has more than 200 buses plying various routes in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Metro Manila.

Singson said Ronald, who is a concert producer and owner of cable music station, Channel V, went to Hong Kong after his company staged the Manila concert of singer, Usher, on July 9.

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HINDI NA MAITAGO

Ang Tunay na Rason

sa likod ng paninira laban sa Smokey Mountain Project

Alam ng lahat na idineklarang "valid, legal and constitutional" ang Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP) noong 2007 sa pamamagitan ng Supreme Court 12-0 decision. Labing-dalawang justices ang sumang-ayon, walang sumalungat.

THE FACTS

FACTS about the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project (SMDRP):

1. Sinimulan ni Pangulong **Corazon C. Aquino** ang Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project upang bigyang lunas ang national eyesore na tinaguriang Smokey Mountain. Sinabawan ng Pangulo ang National Housing Authority na ipamalandi ang Smokey Mountain Project.

"On Jan. 17, 1992, President Aquino proclaimed MO. 415 approving and directing the implementation of SMDRP"
– Based on the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. No. 194027 *Case vs. National Housing Authority, R-II Builders Inc., R-II Holdings Inc., Harbour Centre Port Terminal Inc. and Mr. Reghis Romero II*

2. Pinagtatalunan ni Pangulong Fidel V. Ramos ang proyekto at pinagtibay ang mga kasunduan sa nasabing proyekto.

"On October 7, 1992, President Ramos authorized NHA to enter into a Joint Venture Agreement with RII Builders, Inc.(RBI).

On March 10, 1993, the National Housing Authority (NHA) and RBI entered into a Joint Venture Agreement for the development of the Smokey Mountain dumpsite and the reclamation of the area across R-10 based on Presidential Decree No. 757 which mandated NHA to undertake the physical and socio-economic upgrading and development of lands of the public domain identified for housing."
– Based on the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. 194027 *vs National Housing Authority*

3. Nang pagyuan bilang pinuno ni Pangulong **Joseph Ejercito Estrada**, ang Smokey Mountain Project ay inilagak na isang priority project for the poor ng administrasyon.

" President Estrada approved March 23, 2000 Memorandum, authorizing NHA EXECOM to proceed and complete the Smokey Mountain Project"
– Based on the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. 194027 *vs National Housing Authority*

4. Nakalipat ang 2,500 pamilya sa Smokey Mountain sa kanilang mga permanent housing units noong administrasyon ni Pangulong **Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.**

"The NHA reported that thirty four (34) temporary housing structures and twenty-one (21) permanent housing structures had been turned over by respondent RBI... 2,510 beneficiary families belonging to the poorest of the poor had been transferred to their permanent homes and benefited from the Project."
– Based on the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. 194027 *vs National Housing Authority*

THE DREAM of President **Corazon C. Aquino** in 1992 was finally realized in 2003, when 2,500 families finally heard a home they could call their own. In 2007, The Supreme Court declared the Smokey Mountain Project as a contract with solid legal grounds. To wit:

"Based on the issues raised in this petition, we find that the March 10, 1993 JVA between NHA and RBI, and the SMDRP embodied in the JVA, the subsequent amendments to the JVA and all other agreements signed and executed in relation to it, including, but not limited to, the Sept. 28, 1994 Smokey Mountain Asset Pool Agreement and the Agreement of the Project as well as all other transactions which emanated from the Project, have been shown to be valid, legal and constitutional."
– Based on the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. 194027 *vs National Housing Authority*

Now Why Would Smokey Mountain Project Detractors Fabricate Lies about the Project

PORT MONOPOLY: ITS AND RASON

Some sectors in the port industry are wary of the fast growth of Harbour Centre Port Terminal Inc. under the Chairmanship of Reghis M. Romero II. They see it as a threat to the Kingdom at the Oasis.

It was written in a newspaper column that former MTIA Secretary Rainulfo Veiz, who was supporting open competition at the port, was threatened to a Palace party by a Port Compañero who declared: "Dyan nag dust lindy sinasi Harbour Centre ga't a commercial threat within the ports in the Philippines." Kaya malibang na malibang na hanggang sa ngayon, patuloy pa rin ang pag-unlad ng Harbour Centre na siya pa mismo pinamumulahan kahit pa marami ng mas magandang at kumikita nang talimak hukabos at di-ayon sa demokrasyang Rome Supremo.

Control of the ports through monopoly. ITO ANG TUNAY NA RASON at wala nang iba pa. Let the TRUTH speak for ITSELF ! It is not the Smokey Mountain Project the detractors are after but a protection to monopolistic attitude. Habilang buhay ang hanging kanlurang pilipinas, patuloy ang pag-ihip ng panglabas.

Here are more Facts Vs Lies

1. Pinahinto ng mga kaaway na ang bahagi nito ng proyekto ay P211 million lamang.
FACT at ang totoo : The Smokey Mountain Project's cost was pegged at six billion six hundred ninety-three million three hundred eighty-seven thousand three hundred sixty four pesos (P6,693,387,364). Certified and Accepted ng NHA at ng DPWH na nasapin-tong contract amount na ito. Ang mga ito ay pinahayagan sa dominyan ng Korte Supremo.
"... under the agreement, the stipulated cost for the Smokey Mountain Project was pegged at six billion six hundred ninety-three million three hundred eighty-seven thousand three hundred sixty four pesos (PhP 6,693,387,364)."

2. Hindi raw nasapin ang proyekto
FACT at ang totoo:- The independent validation at accomplishments were certified by the Department of Public Works and Highways. This was acknowledged by the National Housing Authority with the subsequent turnover of homes to the 2,510 family beneficiaries.

Time photographs say it all:

"The land reclamation was completed in August 1996."
– Based on the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. 194027 *vs National Housing Authority*

"The NHA reported that thirty four (34) temporary housing structures and twenty-one (21) permanent housing structures had been turned over by respondent RBI... 2,510 beneficiary families belonging to the poorest of the poor had been transferred to their permanent homes and benefited from the Project."
– Based on the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. 194027 *vs National Housing Authority*

3. Malalagot daw ang pagsingil sa NHA para sa kabayaran ng mga obligasyonn sa Asset Pool.
FACT at ang totoo : Ang pagsingil ng contested obligations ay Smokey Mountain Project at malagit na sampung taon (10 years) na ang ibinibilang mula ang ito ay sampan.
The courts (both the Manila Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals) affirmed that contractual obligations have not been complied with by the Home Guaranty Corporation and the NHA. The courts have recognized the prudence of appointing a receiver so that all obligations can be settled, all creditors paid and all debtors made to pay.

4. Mapupigilan daw ng hatolong panggagamit ang pagpapatupad ng mga kasunduan sa Smokey Mountain Project.
FACT at ang totoo : The Supreme Court has ruled with finality on the legality, validity and constitutionality on the Smokey Mountain Project with a decision 12-0.
"With regard to the prayer for prohibition, enjoining respondents particularly respondents Reghis M. Romero II, NHA et al from further implementing and/or enforcing the said Project and other agreements related to it, and from further deriving and/or enjoying any rights, privileges and interest from the Project, we find the prayer ABSOLUTELY

5. Di-raw nararapat na ang Smokey Mountain Project ay inupalitan ng BOT Law.
FACT at ang totoo : The OSGCC stated: "Succinctly, the Smokey Mountain Project was a program adopted by the National Government for the implementation under the auspices of the BOT Law.

It is a state policy declared under section 1 of the BOT law "**to recognize the indispensable role of the private sector as the main engine for national growth and development and provide the most appropriate incentives to mobilize private resources for the purpose of financing the construction, operations and maintenance of infrastructure and development projects normally financed and undertaken by the government.**"

6. Hindi raw nagagamit ang mailimang na dalawang-ari ng Korte Supreme sakit sa anumpat na pagpapasya ng Smokey Mountain Project. Wala na bang kuwenta ang questong pinagtatalunan at pinaglalaban?
FACT : The Supreme Court made it a last time in a time limit to embody against the Smokey Mountain Project which has favored clear dwellers, among others.
"Such indicia of bad faith are not present in the instant case (the Smokey Mountain Project Case). Furthermore, when petitioner filed the instant case against respondents on August 8, 2008, the Project was already completed... the respondents NHA, RII Builders and Reghis Romero II had no reason to think that their agreements were unconstitutional or even questionable, as in fact, THE CONCURRENT ACT OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT (JOINT VENTURE) TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT. The Smokey Mountain Project agreements have produced vested rights in favor of the SLUM DWELLERS, THE INTENDED BENEFICIARY AND THE PUBLIC (SHARED TITLES OVER SAID LAND, AND THE AGENCIES AND INVESTORS WHO MADE INVESTMENTS IN THE PROJECT OR WHO BOUGHT FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS). These properties and rights CANNOT BE DISTURBED AND QUESTIONED after the passage of almost ten (10) years from the start of the project implementation."
– Based on the Supreme Court Decision in G.R. 194027 *vs National Housing Authority*

After taking their case to the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and other Courts of justice, these people were quick to dismiss the courts and act again making trend. When rules-mastering fails, a team's resort to irresponsible accusations, making media publicity and unsubstantiated investigations, is commitment. A civilized society respects the rule of law. Those who ignore the processes of law have no place in the quest for progress, order and decency.

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Much of US cooks …

From page A1

crowd there).

Throughout the mid-Atlantic states, from New York to Georgia, and out through the Great Plains, the heat this spring and summer has been relentless, causing sizzles, lost and sunlit. It will still before the dog days of August.

Saturday, as one makeover-logist had predicted with scientific precision, was "one of those just downright awful summer days."

Even as a tropical storm visited Florida and California continued its strange cold streak, in much of the East Coast, afternoons high was pushing weekend temperatures to the 40-degree Celsius range and humidity beyond the tolerable.

It is not that any one day has set an all-time heat record, but a large area of the country has been assaulted by a succession of heat waves.

Washington on June recorded the highest average temperature for the month since record keeping began in 1871. And July is on its way to a similar unwelcome record.

With the heat and humidity combining for a possible heat index of over 43 degrees Celsius, the weather service issued an excessive heat warning for the first time this year for an area stretching from south of Washington to north of Baltimore.

By midday Saturday, a wide band from lower New England to the Deep South was under a heat advisory.

The thermometer hit 38.8 C in Washington and Baltimore, 34 Norfolk, Virginia. It was 40 C. Elsewhere, temperatures reached 34 C in New York City and 35.5 C in Philadelphia.

As temperatures soared toward 38 C in New Jersey, Barry Oliver was trying to make sense of it all as he added ice cubes to a bucket of lemonade at a stand he had set up in front of his home in Cherry Hill.

"I'm not sure why people are out here," he said. "I'm not sure why I'm out here."

Mr. Oliver, 57, a retired Navy man, said he was selling the lemonade to raise money for a trip to Disney World. He said he had been at it for about an hour and had made $3.

Asked if he thought he would make more money if he waited for the temperature to rise, he said, "Yeah, but I'm not sticking around that long."

Mr. Oliver said he had been drinking the lemonade himself, and that it was helping him cope with the heat.

"I'm not complaining about the heat and humidity; my wife reminds me that I was begging for this type of weather when I was shoveling all that snow this past winter," the 41-year-old Lakeburst resident said. "Now I'm looking forward to the snow again."

In New York City, the heat brought out the most entrepreneurs in one weekend.

Ali Diarrassis, 27, a native of the West African nation of Mali, sold ice-cold water bottles for $1 from a cooler on a midtown sidewalk. He planned to stay out all afternoon, and hoped to make about $30 for the day, after expenses.

"I keep moving with the shade," he said, as he positioned himself in the creeping shadow of a coin-operated laundry. Reports from New York Times News Service and AP

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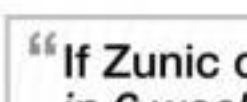

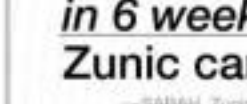

Room 227 N. Garcia Street, Bel-Air II Makati City

Funnyman Redford White exits …

From page A1

him at his Quezon City home last week, recalled that the comedian was in a jovial mood.

"The last time I saw him, we saw him laughing heartily," said Peapeer movie and TV creator Dru Quesada.

His colleagues remember White, or Cipriano Cremona II in real life, as a "quiet, unassuming fellow."

Director Wena Geronimo, who worked with White on "KoKo," one of his last TV shows on ABS-CBN in 2007, said the comedian was always "quiet, sitting in a corner and reading books on the set."

"Buddy vs Sid" creator Vito Quiazon described White as a "dedicated actor [who] always prepared."

Although he wasn't rowdy, White was "a fun comedian … [who was] always ready to collaborate," Geronimo added.

Famous sidekick

A native of Cebu, White shot to fame as a sidekick writer on the ABC 13 sitcom, "Iskul Bukol," which ran from the late 1970s to the early 1980s.

Quesada said the comedian first worked with Tito, Vic and Joey and director Bert de Leon.

"I actually discovered him," De Leon told the Inquirer in a phone interview. "I spotted him at the old broadcast city. I learned from the staff that he was an aspiring comedy writer from Cebu."

De Leon revealed that White had called and asked him to do a comic with the late comedian Jimy "Mang Tinx I" Angeles. They clicked instantly.

"People on the studio kept laughing," he said. White's scripts "are always humorous, spur of the moment episode of 'Iskul Bukol.'"

Shy, soft-spoken

"His real name, Cipriano, was hard to remember. Jimy (de Leon) and I thought of the screen name 'Redford White' instead," Bert de Leon said.

He added that White "never changed at all. He remained painfully shy and soft-spoken" even after he became famous.

"I had had that I didn't get to see him. But I never stopped to visit him this week," Vic Sotto told the Inquirer.

Quesada, who worked with White for five years on the 2PM 9 sitcom, "Buddy vs Sid," in the 1990s, agreed: "Red was never the type who sought out for the center of attention. He was playful and funny on camera, but he was a tad serious off-camera."

Like the best comedians, Dolphy and Vic Sotto, Red "could [not] be separated from his creator for too long," he added.

Last time

The "Buddy vs Sid" host, he said, he visited Quesada and Quiazon, a mutual friend, for Boots Plata, and talked manager Dolor Guevara, visited White at his home last Tuesday.

"We kept laughing," Quesada said. "He was cheerful. He was in high spirits. I remember it was the first time we ever saw him laughing out loud, but it was also painful because we knew it would be the last time we would see him."

Quesada described White as "a timid, honest and good man. He was my comedy partners. My God. Together, we made people laugh and smile. I couldn't have done it alone. He was a man who believed in his craft and valued his work. Today is one of the saddest days in my life."

Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) head and fellow comedian Lito Anzures, who also starred "Buddy vs Sid," visited White last Tuesday.

"He seemed ready to go," Anzures said.

Secret battle

Friends said White fought a valiant battle with cancer…an illness he kept secret even from his closest friends.

In the social networking site, Twitter, comedian Gabe Mercado wrote: "We kept his condition secret, even from close friends. I didn't even know he was ill."

"He was a very private person," Quesada told the Inquirer. "He'd rather hide on the sidelines. In press conferences, he'd hardly talk. He was very shy."

Sad tweets

The Internet was flooded with poignant messages from colleagues.

Actress and TV host Ruffa Gutierrez said on Twitter: "Tinker up in heaven … I will cherish our 'Kokey' days and remember you with a smile."

Also on Twitter, Mercado called White a "mentor … who had tremendous respect for his craft … He was[n't] perhaps the most genius one man I knew."

Singer Gary Valenciano said on Twitter that he "felt bad about [White's] passing … I had wonderful moments with this man."

According to Inquirer and Quezon, White's wake will be held at his home, near the Sto. Niño de Malaya Shrine in Novaliches.

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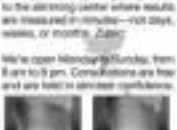

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Gov't troops to take refresher training on human rights

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

DAVID

CATBALOGAN CITY —Gen. Ricardo David said on Monday that soldiers would undergo refresher training on human rights as part of a campaign against the communist insurgency.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff, during a visit to the Army's 8th Infantry Division anniversary, also said that they was not setting a deadline on ending the insurgency.

David said that while President Aquino was open to the resumption of peace talks with communist leaders, it would not mean that the anti-insurgency campaign would be halted.

"Our focus is military operations to defeat the enemies," he said. At the same time, he said that "our soldiers will be sensitized on their conduct on the observance of human rights."

David said there would be no let up in the military operations in Eastern Visayas, but soldiers would be "cautious" to ensure they would uphold the rights of individuals.

Counterinsurgency target

Then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had set a June 30 deadline to finish the decades-long insurgency problem.

David admitted it could take some time to eliminate the insurgency without the help of local government units and affected communities.

He said the campaign against the communist New People's Army was taking a big chunk of the government resources that he said could be used for other purposes.

The military said some rebels number 5,000 across the country, about 500 of them in Eastern Visayas particularly on Samar Island.

The newly appointed AFP chief of staff was in the region as part of his field visits nationwide. He was welcomed at the 8th ID headquarters by its commanding general, Maj. Gen. Arthur Tabaquero.

Not representing AFP

David was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Bautista, AFP operations chief, and Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta, AFP information officer.

Mabanta, in a separate interview, stressed that while some soldiers had committed human rights violations, they did not represent the AFP.

"There were really some who lost their way," he said.

But with the new policy to strictly respect human rights, such violation could be avoided, Mabanta said.

Propecto Pastrana, director of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) for Eastern Visayas, reported a decline in the number of human rights complaints against soldiers in the region....17 in 2009 from 38 in 2008.

Proper court warrants

On Sunday, Mabanta said that whenever possible, arrests and searches against suspected communist guerrillas would be carried out with proper court warrants.

"We will secure warrants except in certain circumstances like when we see them carrying firearms," he said.

"What will make (us) different from the past administration is that we will go, preach campaigns and solve (it) within the purview of the law," Mabanta told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

"The issue we will give premium to is the... restriction of unconstitutive operations," Mabanta said yesterday. With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy in Manila

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Militants to push demands in Sona rallies today

Previous A1

that favors cheap labor and heavily relies on foreign investments.

"Sinking ito sa kumbira (This can't be a basis if you're dirt poor)," said Piñol chair Satur Ocampo, who currently is taking a jab at Mr. Aquino's campaign message in which he addressed the Filipino people as his "boss."

Piñol officers from among the workers of Philippine Airlines (PAL) are also joining the march on Tandang Sora and Commonwealth avenues in Quezon City around 10 a.m. today.

They will be joined by other sectoral groups like Pres-dum (Sem Dele Gualitani and Kampanya Para sa Makatarong Pamumuhay for a march to nearby Batasan complex.

The Department of Education had also suspended classes today in at least 15 elementary and high schools near the Batasan complex in Quezon City because of the Sona.

The PAL workers have prepared a replica of a PAL aircraft inscribed with a message for President Aquino asking him to stop the planned layoff of some 2,600 employees from the national flag carrier.

Also protesting the Federation of Free Workers, a moderate labor group, issued a 15-point statement calling on the Aquino administration to resolve pending labor cases, promote decent work, and create environment-friendly jobs, among others.

Militants groups in Bulis and Akbay are also holding mass actions on Monday to call the President's attention to various issues, among them the unabated killings of activists and journalists.

A new opportunity

In Iloilo City, protesters led by the local chapter of Bayang Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) will gather in front of the campus of Central Philippines University in the Western Visayas at around 1 p.m. before marching in the city's main streets.

The protesters will hold short programs in several spaces before holding the main rally in front of the old provincial capitol along Bonifacio Drive.

"President Aquino's first Sona is an opportunity to call on the new administration to make good on its promises of reforms by stopping extrajudicial killings, hold accountable former President Gloria Arroyo and other officials involved in corruption scandals and impose the president's autonomy," said Bayan Panay chair Bayo Heredia.

While the former President should be held accountable for the killings and for various irregularities, the new administration would be under scrutiny as to what he's could deliver on its promised reforms, Heredia said.

'Sopa'

In Subic, Zbles, the Bayan-provincial chapter will also lead a protest rally and deliver its own "State of the People's Address (Sopa)," according to the chapter's chair George Calaet.

The protesters will assemble at Diaz-ma Park before proceeding to the capital town's main square.

One of the main issues to be raised in the Sopa would be the killing of Fernando Baldovino, chair of the provincial chapter of the party-list group Bayan-Muna and a councilor of Jose town.

Baldovino, the first political activist murdered under the new administration, was gunned down by an unidentified man in front of his house in Jose on July 5.

The killer fled on board a motorcycle that had no license plate and driven by an accomplice. Police have identified a suspect but have neither established the motive of the killing nor its mastermind.

Still no justice

"Until[section of the alleged suspect is still far from giving justice to Baldovino and his family. The government should exert more effort to see those involved in the killing and the ones who ordered it are put behind bars," Calaet said.

Militant groups have blamed the government's counterinsurgency program for rent-hit attacks on unarmed activists.

They suspect that military-backed "death squads" or special units could be behind Baldovino's killing, an allegation consistently denied by the military.

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DPWH to set up 'call center' for complaints

By Jerry E. Esplanada

"YES, FOR sure ... It's definitely a go."

Public Works Secretary Rogelio L. Singson has assured the business that his agency will set up a "call center" but did not provide other details, like its budget.

"We are still taking the project requirements," he said.

The project is part of Singson's key strategic policy of "opening up the DPWH and encouraging the general public to participate in the government and monitoring" of public works projects.

"I have to get a sense of what people are complaining about. With the call centers, people can convey their complaints," he said, stressing, "Public hearings alone do not have anything to hide."

Singson has repeatedly said they "need to be transparent to all our stakeholders."

He also promised to "lead by example and walk the talk."

Focus on transparency

The public works secretary said President Aquino had instructed him to "focus on (near poverty, optimize the budget, minimize budget leakage and change organizational culture to (where) public trust in the DPWH."

Early this month in his first news conference, Singson disclosed that he had a "little proof (that) where the leakages are coming from" in the effected by, among others, irregularities in the selection, awarding and management of public works projects worth millions, if not billions of pesos.

Singson also said he knew "for a fact (that some projects are) substandard."

He did know that, instead of 30 percent of project funds going to kickbacks and the remaining 70 percent going to the projects, as Arroyo said no (it's the reverse)," he noted.

Report anomalies

Singson believes the establishment of a feedback mechanism like a call center would help the DPWH go after rogue personnel, some of whom "act as middlemen and collectors for contractors, politicians and other quasi-public personalities."

The DPWH had earlier set up a Complaints and Action Center at its headquarters in Port Area, Manila.

However, it only received a few complaints from the public, according to Singson.

Thus, the need for a call center, manned 24/7, as well as measures on the social networking sites Twitter and Facebook, he said.

Bella Pilhuto, the department's public information officer, said they would need likely build a building for service providers to handle call center operations.

Hotlines

While waiting for the call center to be set up, the DPWH will have to make do with its complaints' desk.

"We have applied for at least four new hotlines with (the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.), viz. 926-2651 (two hotlines—302-9500 and 304-3370)," Pilhuto said.

The public can also SMS their complaints by "typing DPWH, space, their message, space, the sender's contact details, and send it to 2920."

The DPWH regional offices in Baguio City has also set up its own complaints and action desk, which can be reached through (632) 329-9901 and 924-6267, according to Pilhuto.

Special task force

In a statement, DPWH Region 4 Director Feliciano Sto. Tomas said the establishment of the desk was "in support to the program of Secretary Singson for the department to shed its image as a graft-ridden agency."

"By opening our doors, the general public can participate in the government and monitoring of DPWH projects so they can tell our attention with regards to project implementation and perceived anomalous transactions," Sto. Tomas said.

Sto. also formed a "special task force" to monitor the implementation of public works projects in Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales and Aurora, composed of personnel from the materials and quality control, construction and planning and design divisions of the regional office.

Public works budget

This year, the DPWH budget totals P.215.5 billion, about P2.9 billion less than its 2009 allocation.

At least P76.7 billion of the 2010 budget will go to the construction and repair of roads and bridges nationwide, while P25.9 billion and P7.46 billion will be spent on flood control and other infrastructure projects, respectively.

An additional P1.09 billion is allocated for national government buildings while P4.126 billion will go to regional and field offices.

The DPWH has also set aside P6.03 billion for maintenance and operating expenses and P5.54 billion for personnel services.

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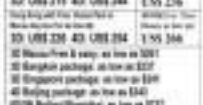

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House coalition plans special budget

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Charlaine Cayabyab
Inquirer Central Luzon

THE LIBERAL PARTY (LP) coalition in the House of Representatives said it was willing to draw up a special budget for President Benigno Aquino III if he completes the first nine months, noting that P500 billion would not be enough.

"For the proposal should come from the executive if they want a supplemental budget. It might be by the processing of the 2011 budget, but not that much," said Gonzalez in an interview.

In a press conference on Friday, Mr. Aquino complained that the Arroyo administration had spent almost all the disposable funds in the 2010 budget, including the calamity fund and infrastructure projects, leaving the new administration being deprived.

This left his administration with P500 billion, of which more than P399 billion had been earmarked for automatic appropriations, including congressional initiatives, he said.

He noted that most of the calamity funds were spent in the former president's districts in Pampanga.

Mr. Aquino is expected to make the corresponding allowances one of his talking points in his State of the Nation Address (Sona) today.

Mayors defied GMA

In Pampanga, six mayors from the second district saw nothing irregular in the more than P100 million that had been allocated for flood-control projects in their towns.

In a statement on Sunday, Mayors Eduardo Guevarra (Floridablanca), Myrlo Capulyan (Lubao), Ricardo Sison (Guagua), Rhanda Pineda (San Rita), Godofredo de la Cruz (Porac) and Aurelius Lozanes (Sasmuan) said the allocation of P192 million by the previous administration was a result of years of following up the projects.

The mayors of the district were represented by Arroyo, however, said the budget had yet to be released.

Instead, Mr. Aquino hinted that "a particular district benefited [from the calamity fund] but [this place] was not affected by [storm]" Tinday."

The mayor of Guagua, in an interview, said he believed Mr. Aquino was not referring to the district.

Sison said towns in Pampanga's second district also felt the impact of Ondoy's heavy rains and floods last year, but they had yet to receive the calamity funds they requested.

"I even felt bad...at that time because [then President Arroyo] would not easily approve our requests. I consulted about funds for dredging and road-widening projects," he said.

Speaking for the group, Gazaleyah said the mayors were willing to return the funds if Mr. Aquino would decide to use them for his priority projects.

"Our intention was for flood-control projects badly because of the rainy season, but we are willing to forego these funds if President Aquino thinks he could use the money for some other priority projects," she said.

To a phone interview, Candaba Mayor Jerry Pineda, president of the Pampanga Mayors League, insisted that the governor, [illegible] the second district, did not receive "special treatment" from Arroyo unless she was president.

"There was no special treatment for Pampanga then because GMA (Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) placed funds in other provinces. She liked Metro Manila and Bicol. Some of her priority projects, like the Pasig [illegible], will skip [illegible] and the C-5 road extension, were not in Pampanga," he stressed.

People's Choice
GOLD 2009
GOLD 2008
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
PLATINUM

PILOT
OKI

Social entrepreneurship up at nat'l retailers' meet

THE PHILIPPINE Retailers Association (PRA) will hold the 19th National Retail Conference and Trade Exposition (NRCE) on Aug. 11-12 with special focus on social entrepreneurship.

The conference will take place at SMX Convention Center at SM Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City with the theme "The Roadmap to Retail Growth in the New Decade."

"I'm positive that more retailers will take up social entrepreneurship," said Engr. Dindo Fernandez, who will speak on a newly created business at the 19th NRCE.

"It's not just about making a profit. It's about helping the community that is also part of. And I'm looking forward to meeting like-minded retailers."

Engr. Fernandez has grown his 600-person enterprise since founding in 2007. It has social entrepreneurship at its core in the production of bags by women artisans in Panama, Quezon City. Some have been rescued from the bench of impoverished families struggling a living on the landfill there.

Yet, the said Engr. Fernandez he is essential to help the women of Payatas, Fernandez said. "Beyond awareness, it's the commitment. It's the mentality behind it that's made it successful."

Other topics in the conference include retail technology innovation and design, retail trends, customer behavior and trends, sustainable retail operations management and best HR practices. Log on to www.nrce.ph.com for details.

The 19th NRCE is supported by PLDT Business Solutions, SM Investments, Banco de Oro, Pru Life UK, Asterion Global, Ayala Malls, Robinsons Malls and others major sponsors.

To register, call the PRA at 687-4290 to 91 or e-mail info@philretailers.com.

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GMA, husband fly to HK on eve of Sona

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Lead the way

IT IS truly right that today's theme of the Ninth Address describe, well, the true state of the nation. That means, in large part, revealing the most characteristic to or the most telling findings from the "inventory" that President Aquino ordered each of his Cabinet secretaries, and the new heads of various government agencies, to conduct, after he took over the government on June 30.

In the last few days, President Aquino has already given broad hints about some of these findings. "I'm

EDITORIAL

still be shocked," he said last Friday, apropos of what he said were at least five major "discoveries" about the state of the government so far found it. "There will be a minimum of at least five ... two of them you will be very, very surprised, at the things we have uncovered," Aquino said.

This shock-and-awe presentation is not being manipulated, turned hoping or spin-Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and all the appointees. It is about being as completely honest as possible, with both the public and the truth. (But, just the same, the language of revelations must be carefully calibrated. Sometimes intention can be lost in execution.)

It is, also, a necessary reckoning. After the Hello Garci scandal became public in 2005, and certain of legitimacy began to gather around Arroyo, her reaction, first instinctive and then armed policy, was to every up-person protester from crowding the streets to ask inconvenient questions, prevent Congress from hosting a true debate on the merits of her impeachment case, prevent the entire Executive branch of government from testifying before an independent Senate. This cover-up mentality because the signature of her administration—and the enormous cloak under which many scandalous transactions became, not only possible, but commonplace.

A shock-and-awe Sona, then, is something that we all need, if only as a reminder that evil deeds will not go undiscovered, or unpunished.

But to describe only the negative is not to present the true state of the nation. About nine of every 10 voters who turned out last May 10 voted for change; this is an overwhelming mandate for the new administration—and a part of the state of the nation. Millions of Filipinos have rejected the highest recorded level of opia, as latest wave surveys attained. In the new President, even before he took his oath of office, this is not cause perception but actual political reality—and a part of the true state of the nation. Many if not most of President Aquino's key appointments have been met with public favor, with standouts like Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima; this is a Cabinet that, by and large, has generated the most goodwill since 1986—and it too and the response to it are a part of the state of the nation. Not least, more and more citizens have realized that to truly see see the government, that we cannot leave everything to the leaders we elected or are appointed; true, these beginnings of a new attitude remain a gift of the post-election euphoria, but they, too, form a part of the state of the nation.

We pray that the Sona, too, reflect these and other sources of hope.

It is not entirely true, then, to say, as President Aquino did say, partly in jest, that he has not enjoyed the usual post-election honeymoon; some individuals and organizations have continued to criticize him, without even accounting for the people's considered judgment as expressed in the May elections, but to strike the goodwill he enjoys, even from the country's famously adversarial media, remains out of the ordinary.

But how does Mr. Aquino connect this sense of imminent change, fed by many sources of hope, to the problems that this Arroyo era, in particular, and our dysfunctional political culture, in general, have left us?

The answer lies in the solutions, as embodied in new governance initiatives and policies, that the Sona will propose. We cannot expect a 20-minute speech, no matter how detailed, to address everything, or indeed to please everyone. Even in his first Sona, President Aquino will have to do some sorting, prioritizing some initiatives over others. But the basic impulse should be Gandhian: This is where the people want to go, and since I follow them I must lead the way.

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How sincere is P-Noy in eradicating corruption?

MITVIEH moore, I think. Plus a more. Fighting corruption was the cornerstone of his presidential campaign. "Tuloy tuloy tatwid, walang maiiwan" was his campaign slogan. The people believed him and gave him a resounding majority. But more than he is already President, P-Noy seems to be wavering. The growing tiger is turning into a meek kitten. Is he taught at shining armor who promised to ease the damsel in distress from the dragon of corruption but is losing into a modern mess, that despicable multiheaded politician who is the bane of Philippine society?

He said are soon enough on the issue of the pork barrel, which is one of the main causes of corruption and the scourge of taxpayers' money. He's burned in the hand scrapped into the budget for the pesos of hundreds of Congress. But the fund does not go entirely to the project. Half of it is lost to corruption. The congressman chooses the private contractor to do the project although the law says it should be awarded through a competitive bidding. The bidding is a sham, however. Through connivance, the project goes to the congressman's favorite contractor who kicks back to the lawmaker the dominant engineer, the auditor and other public officials half of the project's budget. She makes do with the other half, which still multiplies (easily) in shoddy and substandard public works projects.

That is the reason many politicians want to run for Congress: It is not to serve the people so they go easier in their campaign spending. It is to partake of the bounty from the pork barrel. Do you know, from the pork barrel, congressmen who have no dominion to represent, shovel their pork barrel elsewhere?

But that seems a lot of the people's issues. The money are under the allotment of road is called Infrastructure with a broad interpretation. The rest is peppered by corrupt officials.

Yet it is easy to stop if the President is really sincere in trying to stop corruption. Congress cannot appropriate funds for any project not in Malacañang's signed budget proposal. In all the President has to do is not to include in his budget proposal any appropriation for pork (designated as "People Development Assistance Fund" PDAF) and "Countryside Development Fund" (CDF).

Of course he will still have to contend with "congressional insertions" in the budget, those secret provisions that set aside portions of department budgets for members of Congress. Any sincere look at it, this is big-scale corruption.

So it is P-Noy's first budget message to Congress: Here are those for PDAF and CDF or any other innocent-sounding names that camouflage it is not sincere in eliminating our system.

P-Noy faces a gargantuan budget deficit, the biggest in the history of the Philippines. The GMA administration has looted the treasury. It. They will have to pay for that debt. If the taxes usually set aside for the pork barrel are used to pay for part of the deficit, fewer funds would be left for other existing needs, such as poverty alleviation, job generation, housing and health needs, etc. But if the cost-cut pork system is continued, the deficit would get bigger. Where will P-Noy get the money to pay for the deficit? Why, from us the taxpayers, the people who he said are his "boss." Is this the way to treat your boss, allow their representatives to enrich themselves?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

In the theft of the people's money, members of Congress are more like members of a thieving gang than like members of the Boy Scouts. They help and protect one another, even if they belong to different political parties. When it comes to stealing from the people, they are united.

At the Kapihan sa Sulo last Saturday, a group of six congressmen from different political parties led by Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla were asked on their stand regarding the pork barrel. Of the six, only one, Mountain Province Rep. JV Ejercito, not of former President Estrada, said he can do "without the pork barrel." The rest all justified the pork barrel. "Congress has the 'power of the purse'," was the common refrain, so that that power is beginning to take the meaning that it is "the power to steal from the people's purse."

In her turn, second-termer Rep. Abigail Bilog, daughter of Vice President Jejomar Binay, seemed to infer that if the corrupt pork barrel system is scrapped, they would have no money to dole out to constituents who want their help. If we don't do that we won't be re-elected, she seemed to say.

But this attitude and practice are what encourage the mendicancy and laziness of Filipinos. Why break your back working when you can get by asking handouts from your congressman? Instead of looking for jobs, they stay in the free prescriptions and hospital receipts as excuses to ask for handouts. Some opportunistic peasant death certificates of relatives almost every week.

Also, the pork barrel is not supposed to be spent for handouts. They are not aside for projects that would improve the standard of living of the people instead of handouts; legislators should devise laws that would give the people jobs.

And for real development without the pork, projects of congressmen would never be implemented. But they are the regional, provincial and city and municipal development councils of which congressmen and other local officials are members. Congressmen can only push for their projects in these councils. These councils were set up to avoid duplication of projects and save the people's money. Otherwise, the congressmen, governor and mayor usually have identical projects.

State of the nation

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"People Power," he arises from out of the blue, someone who wasn't even a speck of dust in the horizon, someone whom the people who now loudly sing his praises refused to take seriously in their presidential candidacies, who kept watching the fellow who eventually became his running mate, and lost, win the chosen one. The people saw it contemptuously, instinctively, as a political scion of the people accused him did not, even if he himself did not. He was the opposite of Cojuangco. He would bring glory to the land.

Last year, we were going to the pit of despair(s).

Every one of GMA's four sins or omissions is nothing small to injure Poverty and injustice serve idle. Mere illusion condones over unruly citizens to steal more at one point from one getting voices. The poor gets, shown by the increasing tribe of hell-naked children that scrounged in the mountains of Smokey Mountain, are even more being impoverished as police protection while kidnappers and crooks roost being given silver mines to exploit. Her one institution of security had been left standing, as opened the prevailing effects of corruption. But Congress, just like courts, and more extensively not the Church.

He asks every time, GMA gave us so much—must know full shame we were to have her to answer as from the tsunami of global market-lure and other ungrateful hounds we were to complain. With every brain, GMA gave us to understand how lucky we were to have a statesman who has? She is the country and citizens of America. It is unfair unpopular decisions for our own good—other idiots we were not to say it. The situation was not unlike being strapped on a chair unable to say anything while the dentist tells a bad joke along with drilling a perfectly healthy tooth.

This year, we are awaiting for the triumph of justice. Or hoped justice. I'll not take sweet revenge for sure. I don't think the GMA will be at the Bataan today, though I wouldn't put it past her to be so, anyone who has the gall to become a superannuate after doing a Marcos—or after bribing the Comelec commissioners into declaring Mickey Arroyo the winner because of reports pinning—could probably have the gall to be present at the funeral. But some things shouldn't be said, she will sit uneasily with a smirking smile on her lips while they bowl in laughter at her reaction shots.

Like-hope she is there. I don't know what is in store for her. I only hope she will have one act of honest mass or being told maybe when you are a dishonest woman. And Easy soon to tell the truth. She owes to tell the shocking truth about the cullers that have been concealed or plowed through with a vacuum cleaner there's barely anything left of a billion-peso budget that was passed only recently. She owes to tell the shocking truth about how this country has been ripped and pillaged, looted and burned, gutted and ruined by a bunch of people who thought a people's mandate was tantamount to one, or a truth, of calling. She owes to tell the truth about how she was to tell the amazing truth of how he means to bound all those who lied, cheated, stole and murdered to the ends of the earth, the Truth Commission to take the place of the disturbing Pardon or the bounds of hell. He owes to tell the complicated truth of why it is people who were dollars themselves from the blindness of sin, or the void of debt, who cry "Never again!", who will no longer take hell from anyone. He owes to tell the magical truth about the power of truth, how just being able to tell the truth with her loss of ridicule or repression is such a liberating force. She needs to be true reckoning of God and man, shall set you free.

What a difference a year makes.

That is the state of the nation.

Mikey as party-list rep?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE DIVIDED decision of the Comelec on whether Mikey Arroyo qualifies as a party-list representative is indication that some commissioners have chosen to ignore the law on the subject. The Supreme Court will have to send them back to school.

The Supreme Court already dealt with this in the 2004 case of *Ang Bagong Bayani*. Although that decision was primarily about the qualities of the party-list organization and not directly about party-list representatives, the Court nevertheless laundered its thinking about the representatives nonetheless.

We must begin with the basic constitutional text on party-list. It says: "**the three consecutive terms after the ratification of this Constitution**, one-half of the seats allocated to party-list representatives **shall be filled**, as provided by law, by selection or election from the labor, peasant, urban-poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth, and such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector." But the Court also noted that the provision was not self-executory considering that the law was necessary to implement it. Its "so-as-to-be-acted-with law" or "as may be provided by law" and that therefore "it was thus up to Congress to undertake to promote the fully objective of the Constitution."

How did Congress realize the image of the party-list representative? Pertinently for 7041, the Party-List Law, said that the system should "ensure that Filipino citizens belonging to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations **and parties, and who lack well-defined** political constituencies but who could contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation that will benefit the nation as a whole." The law also defined "marginalized and underrepresented." and "lack [of] well-defined constituencies."

When Congress finally enumerated the qualifications of a party-list representative it said in Section 9 of RA 7941: "**The person shall be** nominated as party-list representative unless he is a **natural-born citizen of the Philippines**, a registered voter, a resident of the Philippines for a period of not less than one (1) year **immediately preceding the day of the election, able to** read and write, a bona fide member of the party or organization which he seeks to represent for at least ninety (90) days preceding the day of the election, and is at least twenty-five (25) **years of age on the day of the election.**"

But what does being a bona fide member of a party-list organization mean? The founding cannot be a departure from the constitutional provision which says that he must be elected "from the labor, peasant, urban-poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth, and such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector." Or as the Supreme Court said in 2001, he must be chosen from among those "1. who belong to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties; and 2. who lack well-defined constituencies; but 3. who belong to disadvantaged sectors." And it added that the enactment of appropriate legislation that will benefit the nation as a whole."

Last year the Supreme Court reiterated this in *Banat v. Comelec* when it said that "**it is not necessary that the party-list organization's nominees "suffer in poverty, destitution and infinitesimal** as there is no financial status required in the law. It is enough that the nominees of the sectoral party/organization/coalition belongs to the marginalized and underrepresented sectors, that is, if the nominee represents the Bahenfuls, he or she must be a Bahenful, or if the nominee represents the senior citizens, he or she must be a senior citizen."

It is consequently clear that it would be illogical to exclude members of elite groups because those who belong to the marginalized sectors might not have the capacity to "contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation that will benefit the nation as a whole." Such requirement is not found in the law.

Finally, to quote the 2001 Court decision once more: "In the end, the role of the Comelec is not to **f** that only those Filipinos who are **'marginalized and underrepresented' become** members of Congress under the party-list system. Filipinos-of-the-**f** How could some Comelec commissioners miss this if not deliberately? And what should an enlightened Comelec do with a party-list organization which by its choice of nominees seeks to prostitute the system?

A time to reap

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Norahyn Mustafa

TODAY PRESIDENT Benigno C. Aquino III will deliver his first State of the Nation Address (Sona) before the joint session of the 15th Congress. Indeed, it is the start of work in the new administration ("synergism" now seems so much square in describing the depth and breadth and mindlessness of their plunder.) because they strike at the very heart of any survival as a government, as a nation, as a people.

How many decades of corruption disasters during her malignant rule because of delayed and inadequate rescue and relief operations due to lack of funds? How many children are out of school due to lack of classrooms just to mention crowding poverty because of their insatiable greed?

Let us not forget the Ampatuan Massacre—unfathoming hunger pangs because Ms Arroyo and her justice minion had too many felons and mob cronies at Le Cirque and other expensive restaurants? But of course they had too much wine too, to wash down their delicacies.

Or even count the cost of those dollar bills stuffed into a bag like some dirty underwear, to pay for the wine and the steak: the years of misery who have to abandon families, of young women unscrupulously assaulted and shipped home dead.

The years, the blood, and the tears of Filipinos spilled even in countries we never heard of, to keep the country's economy "afloat," while she boasted of how her billionaire economic policies put the food on our tables.

But a thousand 30-minute speeches can never erase the memories and the pain in remittance and cancer of the brokenness and shamelessness of it all.

And those who, as early as now, are already predicting that the new administration will be "vindictive" because this President is going to tell us, in person and conviction, why we are hungry in misery are merely proof that it will take more than our Benigno C. Aquino III, more than a thousand Sonas, to even begin to uproot, much less eliminate, the culture of impunity that is the cancerous legacy of Gloria Arroyo.

Because it is President Aquino's obligation to tell us, in pain and catharsis, why we are wallowing in misery.

Bear to where I am writing this is an overpass, in pink-and-blue paint now scratched and peeling off. Still with a photograph of Gloria Arroyo hung on the railing, smiling at passersby, taunting them, telling them more than months just about a grand time she and her cohorts had screwing the Filipino people all those nine years.

Underneath its stairs is a lorton built filled with paper, with a crudely painted signage on a piece of cardboard that reads: "Help us." Inside the dirt of the junkshop that has embrace rights to the day's pickings of the dirty belongings of those sleeping inside it, the pieces of old tarpaulin canvas they had collected.

Ages 4 to 13, the six of them have formed their own school into a band of brothers. They share everything equally, from a bottle of soft drinks to left-over fast food pasta that well-meaning students thoughtfully take out to give to them, to the three sticks of cigarettes they can buy with five pesos.

Dressed in dirty ill-fitting clothes obviously discarded by those who could have afforded the last time it rained, but when it rains especially at night, they are hard put where to make the 6-year-old fit into the remaining dry space along the sidewalk.

Beside the photograph of Gloria Arroyo now is an advertisement of a popular student bathrobe, showing three boys proudly dream of as they sleep beneath the pink-and-blue overpass, seemingly accepting the fact that never in their lifetimes will they ever be able to eat that kind of food.

That is the state of the nation left by Gloria Arroyo, before she and her husband have he put on other trip to Hong Kong.

How we allowed an unelected president to bring us to this through nine years of an illegal mess rule would be the first step in finding out how we could have become de Nagy's forced into exile. Office (DOJ), which was associated with the so-called no dress or dress-no political tendency. And a third group was Aquino-Cojuangco Yolo Communities (CLC), including leading members who worked at the Ambahanan of Cardinal Jaime Sin, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, whose name of us pop dress would loosely refer to as Christian democrats or God-dress. But Jesus saw and cared at all economics, and labels. She was the most important glue, the mother, holding us all together. It is this not the kind of glue, the glue of the heart, that is missing in our politics today?

Sister exemplifies those many little people, often in the province, often quiet and unsung, but who can make this nation grow again, or who can deliver through on the country's now-dispensation of hope and of change that we can believe in. Let there be more like Sister Mary John Mananzan, who founded Mayor Anne Rubredo comes from. This one, is learning from "The Heart of Bled." Jesus has done more than her part for humanity and done it well and with much heart. This little person with a big and loud soothing heart deserves her rest. She who are thankful to be blessed as her friends and colleagues and students and people empowered movement in Naga now say, truly rest in peace, Mommy Jean. We remain in our hearts and give us hope to carry on. Dios Mabalos.

Norahyn M. Mustafa Jr. is now a judge of the 9th Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) of Indian, Basa, Cotabato City. He and Jean M. Llorin were among the recipients of the Naga City Mayoral Recognition Award in 2007.

General McChrystal's farewell to the troops

MORE THAN seven years ago, I wrote about the retirement of Gen. Eric Shinseki, the first American of Japanese ancestry to be appointed U.S. Army chief of staff and the highest-ranking Asian-American in US military history.

A graduate of West Point Class of 1965, Shinseki lost his right foot and part of the lower leg in Vietnam, where he received the Purple Heart. His wounds almost ended his military career but he stayed on, outfitted with an artificial foot, and worked his way up the ranks to become an expert in peacekeeping operations. President Bill Clinton appointed him US Army chief of staff in June 1999.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

Shinseki's tour of duty as the US Army was marked by clashes with Pentagon officials, specifically Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his deputy Paul Wolfowitz. One sensitive issue had to do with the size of the peacekeeping force required for postwar Iraq. Shinseki testified before Congress, mentioning the need for some 200,000 troops, a figure Wolfowitz publicly described as "wildly off the mark."

It soon appears that Shinseki was correct on the need for a greater number of troops to keep the peace after the invasion.

Both Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz bestowed Shinseki's last formation as US Army chief of staff. His remarks during retirement ceremonies ended with the line with which he started his speech: "My name is Shinseki, and I am a soldier. God bless you all. Thank you and good-bye."

Today Gen. Eric Shinseki is a member of President Obama's Cabinet, serving as secretary for veteran affairs.

* * *

A few weeks ago, the US commander of Isaaf's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, was fired from his job for public misbehavior, as reported in an article by Michael Hastings in the magazine Rolling Stone, entitled "The Runaway General—Stanley McChrystal: Obama's top commander in Afghanistan has mixed control of the war he never taking his eye off the real enemy: the wimps in the White House."

Some samples of his indolent remarks:

"Last fall, during a question and answer session following a speech in London, Gen. McChrystal dismissed the counter-insurgency being advocated by Vice President Joe Biden as "short-sighted," saying it would lead to a state of Chaos in Iran." The remarks caused him a smackdown from the President himself, who summoned the general to a tense private meeting aboard Air Force One. The message to McChrystal was clear: Mind the f- & up, and keep a lower profile.

"As he prepared for another speech in Paris, someone asked what kind of Biden question he might get this time. Are you asking about Vice President Biden?" McChrystal says with a laugh. "Who's that?"

On another occasion, McChrystal checks on his BlackBerry. "Oh, not another e-mail from Holbrooke," he groans. "I don't even want to open it." He thinks on the message and reads the subject line out loud, then rolls his eyes dismissively in the garden, not bothering to conceal his annoyance." (Richard Holbrooke serves as special envoy to the Afghan-Pakistan region.)

Soldiers are always griping about issues involving civilian authority over the military, particularly during wartime. They think oftentimes, that they know better than the civilians. But they generally keep things to themselves instead of going public. President Obama really had no choice but to sack McChrystal and to name Gen. David Petraeus as his successor.

Last Friday, the US Army honored McChrystal in ceremonies commissioned at the Fort McNair parade grounds.

A graduate of West Point Class of 1976, McChrystal had a equivalent as a wide reader, prone to spending much of his free time browsing through old bookstores and hunting up antiBalthegeist's writings.

Imparting values to McChrystal, Defense Secretary Robert Gates revealed that on a three-star general, McChrystal once sat on night sessions with his teams, subjecting himself to their hardships and dangers. After one such operation, some of his British comrades declined when McChrystal as "the highest general officer in the room."

Gates went on to praise McChrystal, "as the entire three-star phase of his life, he done so with the gratitude of the nation he did so much to protect, and with his place secure as one of America's greatest warriors."

Perhaps just as touching were McChrystal's own remarks: "My service did not end as I would have wished. And there are no exceptions for those who fall short of the ideals we've dedicated professionals, that will likely take some time to correct.

"The 34 years I spent as an Army officer have been a combination of surprises that any experience could have been rich and fulfilling as mine was. ... That's what I feel. And it'll fail to communicate this effectively tonight. I will simply remind you that those words I've used to tell me, that I was a modern master of strategic communications.

"I used to address career questions that we've been asked of lately. The first is, 'What are you going to do?' Actually, I'm thinking that I would be a good fashion consultant and spokesman for Crocs—but they haven't called. The second line to do with my wife, Annie. After years apart, we are doing well and enjoying reconnecting."

On President Obama:

"I want to thank the many leaders, civilian and military of our nation, beginning with President Obama, for whom and with whom I was honored to serve... the common denominator of selfless service has been inspiring."

On his wife Annie:

"In Afghanistan, I once considered using Annie's Italian shoe purchases as an argument to get fully-treated additional forces. But I have no regret over that part of the McChrystal economy. But she is here, like she's always been around when it mattered. Always gorgeous. For three-and-a-half years, she was my girlfriend, then, fiancee, and for over 33 years, she's been my wife."

On doing things all over again:

"If I had to do it over again, I'd do some things in my career differently, but not many. I believed in people and I still believe in them. I trusted and I still trust. I cared and I still care. I wouldn't have it any other way. Winston Churchill said, 'We make a living by what we get. But we make a life by what we give.' To the young leaders of today and tomorrow, it's a great life."

Mommy Jean Llorin

COMMENTARY

Sultanah M. Santos, Jr.

I WISH to pay tribute to a good friend and colleague of 20 years in the peace and people empowerment movement in Naga City, which we call "The Heart of Bicol." Jean Narvas Llorin, who passed away on July 5, two days after turning 70, was herself very much the embodiment of the heart—the indefatigable spirit and compassion and—of that movement. Just about a week or two before her unexpected passing, Jean had published in the Bicol Mail and the Philippine Daily Inquirer a short article in a Naga City issues column addressed to the country's new department head of Social Welfare and Development by her valedictory, a piece entitled in the Inquirer as "Lessons from The Heart of Bicol." Jean was of course referring to her beloved Naga and its people empowerment journey highlighted by the Naga City People's Council (NCPC), but that title could just as well refer to herself.

Jean's article ended with what may be considered her credo: "Indeed, when many little people in many little places take many little steps toward freedom and peace, the world will change." I first heard this from Jean, who would often say it while referring to the "miracle" of the "bloodless revolt" during the 1986 bombing and early years of the Heart of Peace (HOPE), a non-governmental coalition that was the main advocate for the Naga Peace Zone. Let it be recorded in history that it was Jean, as a Sagunto member of the Manila-based Coalition Peace Now (CPN), who initiated the formation of HOPE and who brought to it the initial concepts of a peace zone. This eventually bore fruit in the declaration of Naga as a peace zone during the 36th Independence Day of 1988, in fact the country's first. one peace zone, it may not have fully developed or been consolidated as such, but it was an early standard of a campaign that spread and was replicated in many other little places, like "interzed zones," most notably in General Mandaluyong, more than a decade after Naga's own peace zone was declared.

Jean was able to consume us in HOPE as a coalition with three necessary groups. One was my own group, the Naga for Popular Democracy (NagaPopDem), which represented the democ-pop-dem political activist tendency (which some wrongly suspected to be the same as our dem-L). A second group was former de Nagy's forced into exile. And a third group was Aquino-Cojuangco Yolo Communities (CLC), including leading members who worked at the Archdiocese of Cardinal Jaime Sin, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, whose name of us pop dress would loosely refer to as Christian democrats or God-dress. But Jesus saw and cared at all economics, and labels. She was the most important glue, the mother, holding us all together. It is this not the kind of glue, the glue of the heart, that is missing in our politics today?

Sister exemplifies those many little people, often in the province, often quiet and unsung, but who can make this nation grow again, or who can deliver through on the country's now-dispensation of hope and of change that we can believe in. Let there be more like Sister Mary John Mananzan, who founded Mayor Anne Rubredo comes from. This one, is learning from "The Heart of Bled." Jesus has done more than her part for humanity and done it well and with much heart. This little person with a big and loud soothing heart deserves her rest. She who are thankful to be blessed as her friends and colleagues and students and people empowered movement in Naga now say, truly rest in peace, Mommy Jean. We remain in our hearts and give us hope to carry on. Dios Mabalos.

Sultanah M. Santos Jr. is now a judge of the 9th Municipal Circuit Trial Court (MCTC) of Indian, Basa, Cotabato City. He and Jean M. Llorin were among the recipients of the Naga City Mayoral Recognition Award in 2007.

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Across the NATION

5 teens nabbed for rob-slay in Mandaue

By Jhunrex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The police arrested on Thursday five teenagers, including a 15-year-old girl, linked to the robbery and slaying of a taxi driver in Mandaue City.

The suspects, with ages ranging from 15 to 18, all members of the Gripe gang, admitted to the police that they were involved in the killing of taxi driver Modesto Gellgao, according to Mandaue City Police director Senior Supt. Noel Gillesania.

Gellgao, 58, of Barangay Pakigne, Consolacion town was found dead inside a Citi taxi unit at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The prosecution first picked up 16-year-old Jessie Basale of Barangay Cansaga, Mandaue City, at 6:30 a.m.

The 17-year-old gunman identified as Marco (not his real name) with his 15-year-old girlfriend Mirafa were arrested later in the girl's house in Consolacion before the police arrested the fourth suspect identified as Raul in Mactan in Lapulapu.

Gillesania said the fifth suspect identified as Reg, 17, had no actual participation in the robbery but he was arrested after the alleged gunman identified him as the one who supplied the gun.

Upon his arrest, Reg surrendered to the police a .38 pistol revolver without serial number with two live ammunitions.

Gillesania said that at first, the suspects did not admit their participation in the Gellgao killing until the investigators decided to interrogate them separately.

Marco was the first to admit that he was the gunman when told that the others had confessed to their roles in the crime, he disclosed.

Gillesania said Marco told the police that he shot the taxi driver after getting mad that they only got around P200 pesos. The driver had more than P5,000 cash and a cell phone but the suspects did not find it.

The suspects came from the birthday party of Reg but decided to stage a robbery to have money to buy more alcoholic drinks.

Gillesania said the group's modus operandi would have the girl flag down a taxi, with the other three suspects getting inside the taxi when it stops.

The first taxi driver that the suspects hired flagged down's knew one of them as they did not push through with the robbery and instead disembarked from the taxicab, he said.

Upon learning about the killing of Gellgao, the taxi driver cooperated with the police

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Angeles slay suspect never nabbed for past crimes

ANGELES CITY Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan shows the photographs of Mark Dilem, a computer technician and a robbery/theft suspect killed while robbing three foreigners and six Filipinos in separate incidents in the city.

ANGELES CITY—A warrant of arrest was issued in 2005 against a man suspected of robbing and killing three foreigners and six Filipinos in three separate incidents here over the last two months.

However, the suspect was never arrested and Mark Dilem remains free for more than five years. Dilem, 28, was even able to audition for the television reality show "Kidlat Ko" a few years ago, police and local officials said.

Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan said Angeles Regional Trial Court Judge Philbert Ingeniero issued an arrest warrant against Dilem on Jan. 13, 2005, for robbery and carjacking.

In a news conference on Sunday, both Pamintuan and Chief Insp. Marcelo Baccala, head of the city police's investigation branch, could not say why the warrant was never served.

Dilem, a computer technician and self-styled rapper, is being hunted for allegedly robbing and killing American Albert Hirtzell, 70; his Filipino wife Janet, 53; and helper Isabel Pascale, 29; Marissa Prado, 29; and Tadeeta Colli, in Mercurella Court Subdivision here on July 22.

He is also the suspect in the robbery and killing of Belize James Bolton Perez, 51, and his live-in partner, Melissa Hindarang, 33, in Sto. Maria Subdivision on July 16, and the robbery and murder of Gerardo Geoffrey Allan Brosnan, 46, and his live-in partner Abegail Ibita, 30, at the Oasis Motel and Villas in Cinderella Compound on July 12.

Ballistic tests showed that the gun used in killing the victims came from the same Steyr pistol.

On Sunday, a list of pawnshop owners located close to Pamintuan as a laptop computer, a video camera, a digital camera, cameras lenses and cellular phones pawned by Dilem recently.

Baccala, however, refused to confirm reports that the laptop up to cops who owned it.

Dilem was held by security guards while he was about to leave the gate of Mercurella Court Subdivision in the afternoon of July 22.

The subdivision's security guards became suspicious and held Dilem when they noticed that he was carrying a backpack, a laptop bag and a handbag on his body and although he was only carrying a backpack when he entered the subdivision.

However, Dilem was able to escape by telling a guard at the gate that he would just hand credits for his mobile phone at a nearby store and would return.

When a guard checked the house of the Mirabelle, they were shocked to see that the inmates, his wife and the three helpers were dead. Jun Aldaz, Inquirer Central Luzon

ARMM opposes GMA move to split region; solons fear this would lead to Cha-cha

COTABATO CITY—The region that gave local park to Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's presidential bid in 2004 is now opposing her move in Congress which Muslim officials said could discreetly open the door to a constitutional amendment.

Lanao Sur Assemblyman Zacaria Adiong said he had filed a resolution in the autonomous region's Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) on Thursday asking Congress to stop the passage of House Bill No. 172, which Arroyo filed as Pampanga representative.

HB 172 provides for the splitting of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) into two regions, with one comprising the western islands of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, and the other covering Lanao Sur and Maguindanao.

The bill also proposes the conduct of a plebiscite even in areas outside the ARMM to ask residents if they would join any of the two regions.

Liberal Party members Anwar Malang, a former city councilor, said Arroyo's bill could trigger a Charter change in the guise of accommodating the government's peace dealings with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front.

The bill, the second that Arroyo had crafted after filing her Charter change bill, is said to address an imminent irreconciled conflict between the two Moro groups.

The government signed out the ARMM to the MILF in 1996 and has offered basically the same territory to the MILF during recent negotiations.

Malang also said the proposed measure was unconstitutional because it violated the 1987 Constitution's proscription that only two autonomous regions—one each for Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras—shall be created.

Adiong said forcing two autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao would also entail added burden on the government in terms of budgetary requirements.

"If we can hardly maintain our autonomous regions in terms of budgetary allocation, how much more if we are to have two autonomous regions?" Adiong asked.

ARMM acting Gov. Ansaruddin Alonto Adiong said any amendment to Republic Act No. 9054, the region's charter, should expand the regional government's mandate to generate revenues, particularly from customs duties and other taxes, which are still reserved and not for the exercise of a separate entity. Jeoffrey B. Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

AT PEACE AT THE GULF

Fishermen row their boats with their fishing at Davao Gulf as an unusual warning was issued not after three earthquakes hit southern Mindanao Saturday morning.

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23 dengue deaths in 5 provinces alarm health execs

AT LEAST 23 people, most of them children, have died of dengue fever in Cagayan Valley. Zamboanga City and Bicol region since January this year, reports from the Department of Health showed.

Health officials in Zamboanga City said the situation has become a cause for alarm.

Rodolfo Iglesias, Zamboanga health officer, said at least 1,953 others had fallen ill due to the mosquito-borne disease since the start of the year.

"It has reached the alert level in Western Mindanao. The number of deaths is higher compared to 2009, during which we declared a dengue outbreak with eight deaths," Iglesias said.

In Cagayan Valley, DOH officials have asked residents in the region to be vigilant to protect their families from mosquito-borne diseases, especially dengue, this rainy season.

DOH personnel have been sent to various parts of the region to conduct information campaigns to prevent dengue fever as the agency reported 40 dengue deaths and 358 cases from January to June this year, said Ilom Orais, regional DOH information officer.

He said dengue fever-related deaths were reported in Lasam, Santa Ana and Claveria towns in Cagayan and in Ilagan in Isabela. Data will be used to map out Health Action Quarters.

He said the number of cases this year was lower than the January to June period last year, which recorded 612 cases and five deaths.

Dirty water

Iglesias said that in Zamboanga City, dengue cases were prevalent in the villages of Santa Maria, Tumaga, San Roque, Tetuan, Baliwasan, Sta.Cruz Estate, Tugbungan, Upper Calabasa, Campo Islam and Putik.

Aside from coping with the rising number of dengue patients, Iglesias said health workers are also tackling cholera cases in Sitio Lumbayao villagers.

Two girls, aged five months and 4 years old, died of the disease while 36 others had been hospitalized since Monday, he said.

"They drank water from water wells that have E. coli bacteria, but this has already been properly addressed and the source has been determined," Iglesias said.

In Albay, health authorities have expressed alarm over the recorded 564 dengue cases in the province from January to June this year, more than two times the 35 cases recorded during the same period last year.

Dr. Lani Medalla, Albay provincial health officer, however, reported only one casualty for this year.

"In 2009, there were four mortalities due to dengue," Medalla said.

He said that of the 564 cases, 168 were reported in Legazpi City while Daraga had 97 and Tabaco, 44.

Albay health officials say water shortage compels households to store water, leading to source for dengue risks.

Based on the team's investigation, some root breeding sites of mosquitoes were old pump boats, bamboo posts, old motorcycle tires, shells and sugarcane growth, the provincial health office (PHO) reported said.

Negros Occidental health officials have ditched a clean up drive in the wake of a recent 500 percent rise in dengue cases in the province.

A PHO report showed 1,095 dengue cases in Negros Occidental from January 1 to July 10 this year, with six dengue deaths reported in Himamaylan City, Bago City, Murcia and Cadiz City.

Clean up

Community-based groups and workers were asked to initiate or clean up all possible breeding places of the Aedes aegypti, the day-biting mosquito that causes dengue fever, to avert a further spread of the dreaded disease.

In Cadiz, the number of dengue fever cases has reached 1,000 with 8 deaths, said Eli Alcaraz, officer in charge of the Cadiz Epidemiological Surveillance and Response Unit (CESARU) of the Cadiz Emergency Command Health Office.

Alcaraz said Bacolod City had the most number of dengue fever cases with 251 affected persons and three deaths.

For June alone, the city has recorded 96 dengue fever cases with two deaths.

The other areas with dengue fever cases included the towns of Hinoba-an and Don, each with 82 cases, Ilaonday, Pilar, Pontevedra, Escalante, Fabrica, Manapla, Mandalagan, Pontian, Santisudan, Sigma, Enrique, Ivisan, Tapaz and Sapian.

Health Assistant Secretary Mario Hernandez Flores said people should make sure their surroundings are clean and that breeding areas of mosquitoes—stagnant water in flower vases, uncovered barrels, buckets and discarded tires, wet shower floors, toilet tanks—should be removed.

Others said people may wear long-sleeved clothes and pants when outdoors, use insect repellent and mosquito nets to avoid getting insect bites.

According to research, among the symptoms of dengue fever are high fever, rash, severe headache and muscle and joint pains. Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Jacle Alfanla, Inquirer Mindanao; Roy M. Mamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carlo P. Gomez and Felipe Celacio, Inquirer Visayas

2 cops in extort, bribe raps freed

BAGUIO CITY—Two more police officers accused of extortion and bribery were released from detention by the police of Nagtieng Jaime del Sur, on Friday, Insp. Gil Arriola, Nagtieng police chief, said Saturday.

Arriola said SPO1 Carlito Albino and PO1 John Lester Liwalo were released from police custody after posting bail bonds of P120,000 each.

Albino and Liwalo, both members of the Traffic Management Group, were arrested with another police officer—SPO2 Alfredo Timosan—on July 16 during an entrapment operation conducted by the Northern Mindanao police's intelligence division.

The operation was conducted following reports that TMG operatives were making motorists passing by the Bukid-Digot highway.

They were caught in the act of receiving money from a police asset.

Cramjaled bills seven also recovered from their vehicle. Arresting officers suspected these were part of the money they got from motorists.

A civilian, Ahmel Albis, was also arrested during the entrapment operation.

Timosan posted bail the same day and did not spend much time in prison. Albino was also released on bail, Arriola said.

Meanwhile, the TMG members could face additional charges for usurpation of authority, the Land Transportation Office in Northern Mindanao said.

Eleanor Calderon, chief of LTO RT-9 operations division, said the operatives were not deputized agents and had no right to confiscate licenses or issue tickets for violation tickets.

"My records show that these police officers assigned in Davao del Sur were not deputized agents of the LTO," Calderon said.

Supt. Quevedo Mandaog, Southern Mindanao police spokesperson, said their campaign against corrupt policemen was continuing and that TMG operatives were not being singled out.

He warned police officers against taking bribes or engaging in extortion, saying they could face charges aside from being dismissed from service. Orlando Rivas, Inquirer Mindanao

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ARMM owes 26,000 teachers P124M in salaries

MAGUINDANAO CITY—The autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) government owes its teachers unpaid salaries and the amount continues to balloon, officials admitted on Friday.

Beri Gwakding, ARMM education secretary, said the regional government owes P124 million in back wages to close to 26,000 teachers in Basilan, Sulu, Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and the cities of Marawi and Isabela.

The delay in the release of the salaries had forced many teachers to rely on private money lenders, Wadji Udong, Basilan, Maguindanao district schools supervisor, said.

But Kawit emphasized that the delays, starting in 2006, were inadvertent.

Cascading acid rain reason was the ARMM Dep[ED]'s computerization of its roster of teachers using the computerized individual data (CID) system amid reports of ghost teachers and unmanned schools.

He said the installation of the CID system is still being completed and robust figures were published, the delays could continue.

Cascading said any payment would have to depend on electronic validation because pending completion of the CID system, the DepEd could not officially cut the list of probable phase employees and schools.

He said that while ARMM officials expressed willingness to pay the turnover, there was also the lack of funds to do so.

The unpaid salaries, Cascading said, would have to be charged as a supplementary budget "programmed for that specific purpose."

Najib Sinsuat Sr., ARMM executive secretary said there has been a potential problem on lack of funds in the region.

He said officials had agreed that the only way to address it is for the ARMM to become self-sufficient by generating local revenues.

To become self-sufficient, Sinsuat[sic] said "the ARMM has to assume collection of customs tariffs" as well as export dues to finance operations done through to parts of jurisdiction.

Noah B. Mendoza, Inquirer Mindanao

SCHOOLCHILDREN of Tagawak Island in Tawi-Tawi run carefree in their small forest hit at the port somewhere that some of their teachers have not been receiving their salaries since 2006. AP/KIMBERLY DHOTA

Worms, bugs, rats invade Negros farms; disease kills carabaos, cows in Iloilo

By Carla P. Gomez and Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—The Negros Occidental provincial agriculture office has reported a growing presence of army worms, rats and rice black bugs in fields in five cities and three towns in the province.

The bugs, rats and army worms were noted in rice, corn and sugarcane fields in the affected areas, the report said.

The army worms in larval stage, which feed on crops and plants, have been noted on seven hectares of rice land in barangays Binalbagan and Taloc in Binalbagan town and a hectare of rice in Candoni town, the report said.

There has also been a reported presence of army worms in some villages in Kabankalan City and Bacolod City, it added.

In Bacolod City, army worms in high larval population were noted in two ha of sugarcane fields and 38 ha of corn, and in 28 ha of grassland infested with rats, sugarcane and rice, the report said.

In Cadiz City, army worms were reported in two ha of sugarcane.

Rice black bugs have caused 2 percent damage or 0.24 of a hectare of rice while rats have caused 5.4 percent damage or 14.46 ha of rice in San Enrique, the report also said.

In Iloilo City, the Iloilo Provincial Veterinary Office (Ipvo) has expressed concern over the increasing deaths of domestic animals, particularly carabaos and cows, in an Iloilo town due to septicemia.

Ipvo of Manduriao septicemia killed nine carabaos and five cows, Ipvo chief Dr. Silvino Escobona said.

Septicemia is caused by the bacteria that live in the vessels or tissue of animals that spread rapidly in the body during wet.

To prevent the disease, Escobona said "the ARMM has to assume collection of customs tariffs" as well as export dues to finance operations done through to parts of jurisdiction.

Noah B. Mendoza, Inquirer Mindanao

Carabaos and cows "undergo serious stress during rainy seasons as it is also used to farming," he said.

Escobona said the latest fatality recorded by the Ipvo happened at Barangay Cleto in Lemu, Iloilo where the carabao that was grazing slowly before suddenly collapsed and died.

"Lemu is densely populated on livestock. Usually during this rainy season, we expect cases of hemorrhagic septicemia. Unfortunately this year, it is not simply cases but already an outbreak," Escobona said.

So far, only Lemu has confirmed cases of septicemia, he added.

"This is a cause for alarm. Of the 14 cases, three were incompetent in four a few acres stands. We detect no symptoms. We have antibiotics in the office but we have no chance of saving them since the animals show no symptoms," he stressed.

In previous years, he said, the cases showed symptoms like cough, runny nose and fever so they were able to treat the animals.

"The cases now are alarming because we can no longer administer medications," Escobona added.

The disease, however, would be limited to carabao, cow, sheep and goats as it was not contagious to human and confined only to livestock, he said.

Escobona also said there was a need for the municipality to appoint a veterinarian who could immediately address the veterinary needs of their animals.

He warned that there was a danger of spreading the disease if the infected livestock were slaughtered and would be to contact with healthy livestock.

Some owners tend to slaughter and sell the meat to recoup their losses, Escobona said.

He said he would meet with the village chiefs of Lemu to discuss the problem.

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NEWSBRIEFS

■ NORTH COTABATO

Woman nabbed for selling baby

A WOMAN was arrested at the public market in Kidapawan town on Sunday for trying to sell her 5-month-old baby to a vendor.

Police chief Supt. Joseph Israelmo said a concerned citizen alerted them about a woman trying to find a buyer for a baby.

Israelmo said the police found the woman along Agdeppa St., while still talking to an undisclosed vendor.

The vendor fled upon seeing the police, he said.

He said the woman, who told investigators she was jobless, was placed under police custody. The child was turned over to the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office in Kidapawan City.

Williamor A. Magbanua, Inquirer Mindanao

■ CAMARINES SUR

Lightning kills 4

FOUR PERSONS were killed and two were injured when a lightning struck at 1 p.m. on Friday and 66 a.m. hit in the middle of a football in Barangay Sta. Teresita in Baao town, according to Police Officer 2 Eddie C. Caleb.

Bogie Fellizar, Mario and Glenjin Jedh sustained deaths, and a certain Michael, were electrocuted when the lightning struck, while Mario Fellizar, Bogie's wife, and Jake Lumbad suffered burns and bruises, Caleb said.

He said the bodies of the four fatalities are now at Bel Carmen Funeral Homes here.

The injured have been declared out of danger.

Jose Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ ISABELA

Rebs burn equipment

FIVE LOGGING trucks and two bulldozers owned by the Rizalde Alle Logging Corp. were destroyed on July 22, allegedly by suspected environmental rebels who held the firm's workers hostage for a day at Sitio Barnery in Ramon, San Miguel in Cabagan town, the police said.

Company officials reported that the rebels had inflicted about P1.2 million in total losses for operating in the area.

Wilmor Aloya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

5 teens nabbed . . .

To see page A17

and helped in identifying one of the suspects.

The police subjected the suspects to a paraffin test. They also coordinated with the local prosecutor's office to determine if the suspects acted with discernment so robbery with homicide charges could be filed against them, Gillamac said.

The 5th suspect, Boy, would also be charged as an accessory to the crime, he added.

"We believe that these teenagers were also responsible in previous robberies and we have coordinated with the police in Cebu and Lapu-Lapu cities," Gillamac said.

The cellular phone of the alleged gunman also showed messages that referred to the robberies, he said.

Gillamac admitted that when they checked the Facebook account of one of the suspects they saw photos like the suspects posing a gun at someone.

Enrile heads unity Senate

Frontpage A1

SONA NIGHT President Aquino with Cardinal Rosales and the rector today at the opening of Congress at the plenary hall of the Batasang Pambansa. AMY ALIPIO

...said's rule more seamless," Aquino said.

All defiance blues "somewhat ed" as the unity of the Senate, according to Angara.

Best option

He said Enrile was "the best option" because neither Pangilinan nor Villar was able to secure the 13 votes.

Angara said Sen. Jinggoy Estrada would remain as Senate president. Pro Tempore, while Sen. Tito Sotto would be the Senate Majority Leader.

But with a unified Senate behind Enrile, Angara contended that the question of who would be the Minority Leader was moot up to he ask.

"We don't know yet who would want to stand on the opposite aisle," he said.

Only 21 will vote

The Senate has 23 members with Aquino's vice in the presidency. Only 21 of them can vote in today's Senate presidency election.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV remains detained while Sen. Mar Roxas has yet to surface after he left the country six months ago while facing charges for the double murder of publicist Salvador Dacer and Emen's driver.

Estrada, like Enrile, earlier committed to support Pangilinan, who helped secure the votes for Enrile, said the Ejercito lawmaker enjoyed "broad support transcending party affiliations."

He said that "almost all" in Villar's camp, including Villar himself, committed their support for Enrile on Saturday night. This followed a meeting on Friday night between Enrile and Villar.

Sotto said that at the meeting, Enrile and Villar were able to "clear up" issues as well as "iron out their differences."

Senators were meeting yesterday to deal with the committee chairmanships. There are 27 chairmanships up for grabs.

No problem for Aquino

Drilon and Estrada said they did not think Enrile's leadership in the Senate would be a problem for President Aquino.

Drilon said that Enrile from the very start had supported Pangilinan's bid until the latter was unable to get the needed votes.

Likewise, he said Enrile would support the administration's legislative agenda because not only was the Senate "an extension which will respond to the needs of the country" but one was inclined to support a "popular" leader such as Mr. Aquino.

Estrada agreed that Enrile and Mr. Aquino were very much in good terms in the Senate before.

'Friendly' Senate

Malacañang yesterday said it still expected to deal with a friendly Senate despite the withdrawal of Pangilinan from the Senate presidential fight.

"We look forward to working and cooperating with a friendly Senate," said the President's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda. "It's important that we have a friendly Senate (for) our legislative agenda."

Lacierda said that in hoping for a friendly Senate, Malacañang was not fearing that the senators might scrutinize the Aquino administration for possible corruption.

"The Aquino administration has promised not to engage in any corrupt practices that's why we are not afraid of that," he said.

"What we are more concerned of really is the legislative agenda of the President has in mind, which will require cooperation from the Senate." With a report from Christian E Esguerra

Belmonte leads much bigger House coalition

Frontpage A1

READY FOR SNC-DAY A worker puts the final touch on the gates of the Batasang Pambansa complex in preparation for the first State of the Nation Address of President Aquino. MARIO ALVIS

Belmonte was also the Speaker as in the 13th Congress, before he served three straight terms as Quezon City mayor from 2001.

Lakas promise

In an interview during a "show-of-force" meeting at Bistro Shangri-La Hotel on Friday, Belmonte refused to be caught up in the euphoria over his imminent election as Speaker, declining to talk about his plans before today's voting.

Backed by Mr. Aquino's mass support, Belmonte is expected to secure bills nearly three times, especially after the minority Lakas-Kampi-CMD party declared that it would not be a "contender" in the 15th Congress, even though its leader is Mr. Aquino's predecessor, Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Term-sharing

"We will not be obstructionist. We will cooperate with the new administration in terms that reforms promised by the new administration and that our party believes in will be implemented," said Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez.

Suarez has agreed to a term-sharing with Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, who is likely to be elected minority leader today. Suarez said he would take over the post after one and a half years.

Although the Liberal Party has only 70 members in the House—around 10 Lakas-Kampi's 86—the party of Mr. Aquino expects to garner much of the spoils given to the ruling party.

Named deputies of incoming Speaker Belmonte, whose nominee has increased from four to six, are Quezon Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada, Northern Samar Rep. Raul Daza and Zamboanga City Rep. Maria Isabelle Climaco from the Liberal Party; Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla from the Nacionalista Party; Unaffiliated Sur Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella from the National People's Coalition (NPC); Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino; Pampanga Rep. Antonino Aliwalas; Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong; and Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano Jr. from Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

List of House committee chairs

PRESIDENT AQUINO'S Liberal Party (LP) dominates the chairmanships of various committees in the new House of Representatives.

The committees and their LP chairs are:

- Appropriations: Cavite Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya
- Justice: Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr.
- Ways and means: Batangas Rep. Raimundo Marcelino
- Dangerous drugs: Iligan City Rep. Vicente Belmonte Jr.
- Banks and financial intermediaries: Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol
- People's participation: Manila Rep. Benjamin Asilo
- Games and amusement: Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing
- Pampanga City Rep. Blas Ople (LP) has been named head of the House contingent to the Commission on Appointments.

Among the members of Speaker-to-be Belmonte's team were Camarines Sur Rep. Leo Villafuerte and Valenzuela City Rep. Rex Gatchalian from the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC); Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino; Pampanga Rep. Antonino Aliwalas; Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong; and Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano Jr. from Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

New LPs

The non-LP members picked to head committees were:

- Rural development: Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga of the Nacionalista Party (NP)
- Foreign affairs: Albay Rep. Al Francis Bichara (NP)
- Government enterprises: Zamboanga City Rep. Erico Basilio Hilao (NP)
- Suffrage and electoral reforms: Cavite Rep. Pidelis Bacnang (Lakas-Kampi-CMD)
- Public order and security: Cebu Rep. Pablo John Garcia (Lakas-Kampi-CMD)
- Transportation: Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado (Lakas-Kampi-CMD)
- Labor and employment: Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo Jr. (Lakas-Kampi-CMD)
- Youth and sports development: Sur Rep. Renato Usman (Lakas-Kampi-CMD)
- Agriculture: Batangas Rep. Mark Llandro Mendoza (NPC)
- Health: Bacolod City Rep. Anthony Golez (NPC)
- Local government: Negros Oriental Rep. George Arnaiz (NPC)
- Basic education: Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero (United Opposition)
- Higher education: Aurora Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara (Lakas-Kampi-CMD-Nacionalista Party)

State of nat'l budget: A tour of GMA chamber of horrors

Frontpage A1

...ssure the budget that was left and the 31.34 billion budget for this year," he said.

"The problem left a lot of us gasping for breath at what has been done. The questionable transactions and expenses were really without rhyme or reason. But the burden is on us to fix this mess."

The President confirmed earlier reports quoting budget officials that P849.2 billion of the 2010 budget had already been released, and that only P991.4 billion remained. But P500 billion of the balance was earmarked for "automatic appropriations, including congressional reformists," leaving the government with P300 billion at its disposal.

"I'm sure 10 percent left to take care of the last six months is a bit bloody," Mr. Aquino said.

One of the funds depleted was the calamity fund and he protested on that not even half of the storms the country was expecting this year have not come in.

"So when I'll call an end for search and rescue, you will be armed with heart and courage because of the dearth funds and resources," the President said.

Anticlimactic

The stark preview of the state of the budget appeared to be anticlimactic to the State in which he promised to unveil "a succession of firsts accomplishments."

With this mapped out effort to clean the past administration, Mr. Aquino signaled that he would use the State as a document for the total demolition of the legacy of the Arroyo administration.

The demolition has started since the start of the May 2010 elections, with the focus on corruption scandals, which the previous administration had been accused of during Arroyo's second presidency.

With the shift of focus to the depleted budget, the President offered a means to open a limited number of new taxes to keep his anticorruption campaign from running out of steam.

Vision, goals

The focus is essentially not a positive-oriented document. It is a policy instrument that sets out the vision and goals of a new government that has more hitchhiker electoral mandate on the promise of political reforms and social change with a strong anticorruption screen.

Mr. Aquino's inaugural set in broad strokes his administration's underlying philosophy of governance—expressed in the phrase that it would not need to resume it with the scandal-ridden Arroyo administration, that it would not abuse its powers, that it would be a government with a heart and that it would be a competent one.

His slogan is that, if there is no corruption, there is no poverty—a pledge that is, at best, pious sloganeering.

The Bureau of the Treasury has reported that the budget deficit ramified to P586.7 billion in the first semester, or 20.47 percent more than the 1H45.2-billion ceiling for the period. Overspending in the first semester represented 80 percent of the full-year deficit target of P285 billion.

Malacañang officials have explained that the disclosure of the "existence of five unreported" the administration has uncovered is part of making an inventory of what resources are available to the new government in preparing programs.

Mr. Aquino's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said: "We have to ascertain what the problems are. Therefore, these problems will point to certain solutions that would have solve all these problems."

Diversion

Malacañang doesn't say it is part of the effort to divert attention to the economically damaging aspects of the award of the ...high expenditures from a president who has inspired public trust and confidence not enjoyed by any president after his mother, President Corazon Aquino.

A more cynical explanation of why Mr. Aquino is stepping up the flogging of the Arroyo legacy is that while he may be a symbolic, it has not translated into domination over the new Congress. He has a precarious hold on the legislature.

His party, the Liberal Party, only one of the minority parties in the House of Representatives, serves as the nucleus of a loose coalition cum forming the new majority.

The President's control of ...influence in the Senate, fractured by small parties, is even more tedious and unstable.

Big bubble

At the very best, the state's accounting the President is a big bubble with a short life span. It will be wasted as soon as he spells out the specifics of his budget.

The fireworks could start on Day One after Sona. GMA (Arroyo) will no longer serve as a scapegoat.

With this Sona, Mr. Aquino is at the end of a period of Arroyo-bashing.

It's time to cut my (specifics), parcels-clearly on how to address the spending deficit, how to ...placate the depleted budget and ...where to locate the revenue to meet government expenses.

FLOODED TUNNEL Motorists make their way through a flooded tunnel on Edsa in Cubao, Quezon City

Rain brings instant flood to Metro

From page A1

continue [Pagasa].

The Science Garden in Quezon City recorded an average of 45.15 mm per hour, roughly six times the amount of hourly rains considered heavy. Rains measuring more than 7.5 mm per hour is considered heavy.

In comparison, Ondoy dumped on Metro Manila and nearby areas 341 mm in six hours on Sept. 26, 2009, causing the worst flooding in decades. The deluge killed 464 people and destroyed or damaged 180,000 homes. Ondoy's downpour averaged 56.33 mm per hour.

Next three days

Heavy rains would likely continue on Regions Ivb-mimaropa (VCZ to dominate Philippine skies in the next three to four days.

A low pressure area east of Eastern Samar over the weekend was no longer affecting the country's weather as of yesterday said Pagasa weather forecaster Gilmore Anticlan.

The Pagasa forecast cloudy skies, showers and thunderstorms in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and the Visayas in the next four days.

Social networking

Many of the flooding is major thoroughfares yesterday were reported real-time on social networking sites.

Online users reported flooding in major roads like Edsa and Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, and streets around Ortigas and Makati City.

"There were streets that were not passable to light vehicles because of the flood. That's why cars stopped, causing traffic jams," said Robert Nacianceno, general manager of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Portions of Elliptical Road, Philam and C.P. Garcia Avenue in Quezon City and a portion of Ilaro Boulevard in Mandaluyong City were also flooded, he said.

Pasay, Makati

Other areas like Leveriza in Pasay, the Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue-Ayala Avenue intersection in Makati, and the northbound lane of Edsa-Taft Avenue were flooded, but waters was slowly receding, said Meryll Nicanor, telephone operator at MMDA Metrobase, which monitors the metropolis using closed-circuit television cameras.

A portion of Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, formerly Buendia, was submerged in knee-deep floodwater causing heavy traffic jam and making it hard for light vehicles to pass.

Chief Insp. Jenny Tuson, spokesperson of the Southern Police District, said floodwaters rise on Nala Avenue in front of the Pagasa center, making it impassable to light vehicles.

Motorbuses

Glen San Diego, head of the Quezon City public safety office, said motorbuses rescued stranded families and motorists.

"Victims will be brought to nearby schools and will just be allowed to go home as soon as water in their area has subsided," San Diego said.

He said about 150 families were affected by the flash flood, but no one was reported hurt.

The tactical operation center of the Quezon City Police District reported that as around 2 p.m. yesterday, several areas, including a portion of Commonwealth Avenue, had been declared impassable to light vehicles.

PCO Cesidiano Tinio said he was on duty, and reports reaching him showed that in some areas, along E. Rodriguez Boulevard near Araneta Avenue, "water had risen to waist-deep and impassable to all vehicles."

"Almost all the major routes in the city are flooded, but only several isolated areas were declared impassable," Tinio said.

Light vehicles were advised not to pass through Marcos and Baptist streets in Quezon City.

In Manila, at least five major roads were flooded although they were still passable to light vehicles, said the Manila Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit (MPD-TEU).

Among the flooded areas in the city were España Boulevard, and Antipolo and Maceda streets in Sampaloc, said SPO1 Francis Quiambao of the MPD-TEU. Also flooded were Dobie Gil Street near Taft Avenue and Pennsylvania Street in Ermita and Malate.

Eastern Metro Manila

Light to moderate rains poured on eastern Metro Manila on Sunday, but no significant flooding was reported in the areas traditionally known as its flood prone.

The Ilang Ilang and Marikina Sumulong-each said they had not monitored any significant flooding.

The tactical operation center of the Northern Police District, which has jurisdiction over the perennially flooded Caloocan (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela cities) area, said there was flooding in several parts but the roads remained passable.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, waters receded from most flooded areas, save for the portion of Araneta Avenue near Maria Clara Street in Quezon City, because the creek there overflowed, the MMDA said.

Fire in Pasig

The weather is already rainfall, however, was much of a help after a fire hit a shop selling ceramic products in Pasig City and spread to neighboring houses.

The blaze started at 2 p.m. in a shop on San Francisco Street, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, fire officers said. The fire reached the third alarm.

Fe Dungunga, Alexander Cayetano, Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) executive vice president, said the aircraft diverted to the DMIA included four from Cebu Pacific, three from Air Philippines, two from Zest Air, two from Philippine Airlines, and one each from Singapore Airlines and Swan.

In a text message, Virgie Jose Luciano, CIAC president, said the aircraft were not able to land at Nala due to poor visibility brought about by heavy rains.

The aircraft started landing at DMIA at around 12:20 p.m. Five of the 13 aircraft had left for Nala at 5:30 p.m. While reports from Antonette T. Arellano and BJ Pup, and Joe Ablaj, Inquirer Central Luzon

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT NOYNOY AQUINO

We call on President Noynoy Aquino to heed the recent Supreme Court decision stripping Joel Villanueva from being a Congressman representing the Citizens Battle Against Corruption (CIBAC) Party-list in the last Congress. Finally, Joel Villanueva has been exposed as a poseur in a unanimous decision arrived at by the Supreme Court.

It would be the supreme irony if President Noynoy who seeks to bring our people to "the daang matuwid" insists on appointing Joel Villanueva as the Director-General of TESDA, someone who knowingly knew he was unqualified to serve as a member of Congress beat the certification process for qualifying our youth to serve and be honestly employed - someone who just came from the "'daang baluktot."

His offense is not as simple as changing the numbers on a golf scorecard.

We question the standards set by your search committee to select Joel Villanueva who does not possess any significant experience or knowledge in Technical education or in Skills development. Technically, morally, and now legally he cannot under any circumstance be said to be one of "the best and the brightest" in our land.

We trust that you will do the honourable thing.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

MIL AGRAVE AMORES

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ALLEY: Cabagnot (left) and the San Miguel Beermen mind Paul Artadi and the Derby Ace Llamado crashing back to earth after Derby Ace's scintillating victory over SMB Friday

Beermen, Aces frustrate foes, grab 2-1 leads

By Mueng B. Cardin

SAN MIGUEL Beer came back from 17 points down in the first half then played a steady game to nip Derby Ace, 74-70, for a 2-1 lead in their rugged best-of-seven Final Four series in the PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Arwind Santos dropped a lick-breaking triple with 65 seconds and Dondon Hontiveros added a few threes for good measure as the Llamados self-destructed with one silly lapsed and two hasty attempts down the stretch.

Defense was a premium in the badly officiated game as the Beermen employed the psychological edge and erased the latter memories of bungling an 89-point first-half lead in a 95-94 Game 2 loss last Wednesday.

Although import Lionel Freeman was held in check by Josh, San Miguel's defense helped muffle the Llamados' import guys James Yap and import Rony Profugo.

Ilhaham was held to just 10 second half points and former MVP Yap to just seven in the same stretch as San Miguel overhauled a 35-49 halftime deficit to take the lead even before the end of the third period.

"I am not taking anything away from them, they (Derby Ace) have very good offensive players," San Miguel coach Ilee Tungcab-ye told reporters. "But give some credit to our defense. We have made a conscious effort to stop their scorers.

"In a defensive series such as this one, nothing is going to be given to you," he continued. "You have to go after it, basically."

In the second game, LA Tenorio hit a huge three and four rookies Jave Guemarra while Beyond Huganon threw in a crucial defensive nugget somewhere in between as Alaska held off Talk N Text, 96-90, in their every-do-break-ing Game 3.

"LA was calm as a cucumber out there," said Alaska coach Tim Cone, whose Aces retired to 2-1 lead in that half of the semifinal pairing. "We kept battling and battling and by some big shots down the stretch."

The Beermen came out of the halftime break with a renewed energy by making an unanswered 6-point.

Derby Ace had taken a 65-24 lead with 1:30 left in the second period after a Jeff Allado basket, and the Llamados looked like they had complete command after closing out the half strong on a 45-33 lead.

Although Freeman piled up 8 of 29 rebounds, San Miguel quickly got back in the game in the third period with Hontiveros finally lifting the Beermen ahead at 55-53 with a triple.

Trailing 70-73, Roger Yap doomed the Llamados with a final inbound pass that was intercepted by Hontiveros and led to Hontiveros' two-sealing free throws.

Both teams got a dose of boos calls with James Yap, in one instance, being called for "flopping" even with Ilhaham clearly hitting him twice in the face, once with the elbow and again with the shoulder.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL 26—Hontiveros 17, Freeman 14, Standhardinger 12, Santos 8, Pascual 7, Villanueva 6, Yeo 5, Cabagnot 4, Mallari 3, Pinto 0, Ildefonso 0

DERBY ACE 70—Tenorio 22, Yap A. 17, Allado 10, Yap Le. 6, Artadi 6, Pingris 4, Casimiro 3, Ilhaham 2, Salado 0, Tiu 0, 0

Quarters: 14-24, 35-45, 57-58, 74-70

Second Game

ALASKA 96—Baclao 21, Ungasan 17, Fonacier 11, Intal 10, Exciminiano 7, Regis 7, Dela Rosa 6, Torres 5, Reyeraso 2, Jalalon 0, Tolentino 0

TALK N TEXT 90—Castro 29, Hugnatan 17, Ilagan 12, Ilagan 11, Ilagan 6, Pinto 5, Cruz 0, Cruz 0, Cruz 0, Cruz 0, Cruz 0

Quarters: 17-24, 40-43, 61-66, 90-90

Smart Gilas revamp looms; scramble for slots expected

By Jane Manaors

THERE WILL be a scramble for regular slots in the Smart Gilas Philippine Pro lineup if the Philippine Basketball Association approves a request by JJP coach Eaglet Tenorio for more reinforcements for the coming Asian Championships.

And the prospect of getting bumped off does not sit well with some of the players who have been remained almost two years ago when the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas took over from the PBA the responsibility of forming a national line that will try to bring the country back to the Olympics in 2012.

Amongst the players are former PBA MVP Kelly Williams, Tenorio also wants to tap guards Ryan Reyes of Talk N Text and Johnson Mercado of Rain or Shine and either Ian Vedana of Coca-Cola or Sonny Thoss of Alaska.

Tenorio said Vedana or Thoss may fill the gap in the point if naturalization candidate Marcus Douthit fails to secure his citizenship papers in time for the 16th nod.

"When the PBA players come in, our playing minutes will be a concern," said a disconcerned Gilas player who refused to be identified.

JP Cuan, a consistent off-the-bench playmaker for Smart Gilas, isn't quite sure how the inclusion of the PBA stars will affect the rotation, but the former De La Salle star is determined to protect his slot.

"I have to play harder, fight for my slot and prove that I belong in the national team," said the 23-year-old Cuan.

TALAJAN

THOSS

"It's natural for other players to feel bad about it (but) if the move is for the good of the national team, I'm definitely for it," he added.

The SMP Ballers finish fourth in the recently concluded William Jones Cup in Taiwan behind the national teams of champion Iran, runner-up Japan, Taiwan and Jordan.

Former Ateneo and Williams, who could provide Tenorio with more height and dirt at power forward, is expected to join the Nationals after the PBA Fiesta Conference. Tenorio has been utilizing the 6-foot-7 Min Shinsuei as his primer option in that position.

Next stop for Smart Gilas is the Fiba Asia Stanković Cup in Beirut on Aug. 7-15.

Aside from Cuan and Barroca, the other original SP team members are Chico Lim, Mark Barroca, Greg Slaughter, Japeth Aguilar, Jayvee Sumbilanza, Dylan Ababou, Rey Guevarra, Ed Antol, JR Cawaling and Aldrich Ramos.

Rabeh Al-Hussaini, PB-hotstigo players Marvin Gardner and Chris Lutz and Shenkhil were included in the program this week.

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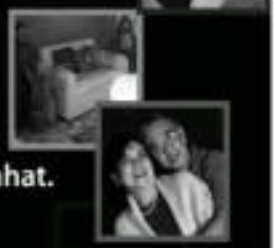

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MEGAWORLD FOUNDATION, INC

Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lllanday

DID YOU KNOW

ROXAS Boulevard's former names were Dewey Boulevard and Cuarta Boulevard.
Cyrill L. Bonalberio, Inquirer Research

Lawyer faces libel for Facebook updates

By DJ Yap

THE TAGUIG provincial prosecutor has recommended the indictment of lawyer Argee Guevarra on libel charges in connection with his Facebook postings last year in which he allegedly defamed the practice of celebrity cosmetic doctor Vicki Belo.

The complaint stemmed from his status updates in July 2009 on the social networking site in which Guevarra referred to Belo's clinic as a "Frankenstein factory," and called her "Hayop ng Kapitalismo (Species of Satan)."

He also called for a boycott of Belo's company, the Belo Medical Group Inc. (BMGI), in protest of the alleged botched buttocks augmentation procedure performed on a former patient, Josie Nereis, by two of her doctors.

Mirla Sarmiento, fourth assistant provincial prosecutor, said there was probable cause that libel was committed and that based on the evidence, Guevarra might be guilty of the offense and should be held for trial.

4 libel elements present

In a June 28 resolution, the prosecutor said she found all the elements of libel—defamation, malice, identification and publication—in the libel complaint filed by BMGI, represented by its general manager Agnes Ballesteros, against the lawyer.

Guevarra is the counsel of Nereis, who had accused Belo's clinic of negligence in the procedure done on her buttocks that allegedly led to medical problems, requiring several hospital visits.

In the complaint, the BMGI cited at least 16 allegedly defamatory statements Guevarra had made against the company, one of which read: "Argee Guevarra is preparing himself for a campaign against Dr. Belo Medical Group for its criminal negligence which nearly killed Ms. Josie Nereis over a botched butt augmentation procedure."

Guevarra added that he found out it was Belo herself who had marketed the procedure in Nereis and that the surgery was performed by doctors who were not licensed by the Philippine Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons.

In his counter affidavit, Guevarra said Facebook postings were not covered by libel laws, and that the Taguig prosecutor did not have jurisdiction over the case.

He also reasoned that the messages were a form of privileged communication as they were not defamatory and were only an extension of his freedom of expression. He also noted that Belo and her clinic are public figures.

But in her resolution, Sinarmiento said the postings were defamatory as it imputed "discreditable act or condition" not just to Belo but BMGI, and drawed readers on the part of Guevarra when he called for a boycott of the clinic.

Dangerous sidewalks

It's dangerous to walk on sidewalks in Las Piñas CBD Pamplona. They are uneven and full of holes and parked vehicles. The only area where sidewalks seem to be in order is in front of Senator Villar's Starmall. Mayor Aguilar, please do something about this.

Larry B., 60, Las Piñas

'Talipapa' takes over sidewalks

The people of Tagaig would be happier if the new mayor could give back to them Pasong Tamo Extension and Bubblewalk which have been converted into an unsightly and unnecessary talipapa (market) by the Tsugai, depriving taxpayers and motorists alike of their rights to use this road which links Makati and Taguig.

Residents, BF, Taguig City

Fixers at city hall

Fixers proliferate at the BIR satellite office in Quezon City Hall.

Jr., M. Manila

Waste of taxes

Calling the head of the Quezon City Engineering office to kindly explain why their dig up roads that are in good condition. They remove those roads and then put an coat of asphalt. Why do you waste taxpayers' money?

Raymundo Dog, 68, Fairview, Quezon City

Environment-unfriendly store

Can the Quezon City sanitation office send a representative to inspect a kitchen utensil store in Kamia, Visayas Avenue? The employees throw just throw their garbage and wastewater just about anywhere, in plain view of the public.

Anna Lopez, 25, Quezon City

Metro Citizen's call
0918-8985556

Do-nothing traffic enforcers

Traffic is going from bad to worse in Novaliches with the ongoing construction of C5 and Road, jeepneys and TV vans picking up and dropping off passengers in no loading and unloading zones. Traffic enforcers just watch but do nothing.

Ma. Fe, Novaliches, Quezon City

Heavy traffic 24/7

Pasay Mayor Eusebio: I hope your team can look for ways to decongest Ortigas Avenue Extension, particularly the eastbound lane. Traffic is always heavy in this area at any time of the day or night.

Carol, 37, Pasay City

Use of Press stickers abused

To the MMDA: HPG, LTO and media: What does the law say about luxury cars belonging to people living in posh subdivisions and condominiums when their PRESS stickers to get around the number coding scheme? Are these people really members of the press? I doubt that because most of them are foreigners.

Ray Dabe, 47, Makati

POTHOLES AND CLOGGED CANALS
Maria, 34, of Quezon City, writes: "Can Mayor Herbert Bautista do something about the potholes riddled Araneta Street in Villa Corrina and Mindanao Road in Barangay Pasong Tamo? The canals in the area are also clogged, posing an inconvenience to motorists not just during rainy but even sunny days."

A NO SMOKING sign is displayed near the façade of the elevator enclosure at Dominia Avenue, Makati City. Authorities are still trying to determine the source of an oil leak in the area which was first detected on July 12.

Makati residents smell oil in sewer

By Mike Montoya

FEATHERLY'S EARLY morning breeze wasn't pleasant for Bernie Calicon when he stepped out of his house on General Capinpin Street in Barangay Bangkal, Makati, to take out the garbage.

As he walked to the curb to wait for the garbage truck, he caught a whiff of something bad in the air.

"It smelled like gasoline," he later told the reporter. "That scene is how caused my day throughout the night before."

Residents of the street located two blocks away from Pryce Tower condominium—where officials are monitoring a possible oil leak—have reported what seems to be gasoline in the sewer system beneath their homes.

Calicon, 47, said he was roused from sleep at around 3:30 a.m. after he felt his throat dry up which made it difficult for him to speak. He drank a glass of water to help relieve it, gathered the trash bags and went outside his house.

"The scent of gasoline came from the sewer," he said.

His neighbor, Geanin Villareal, 40, saw a thin sheen of what looked like "gasoline" after floodwater dumped by Sendong's heavy downpour streamed inside her residence.

"This is the first time I saw oil in the floodwater," she told the reporter, describing the substance she saw as having different colors, "like a rainbow," when the light shone on it.

Authorities said they were still verifying the residents' claims, but based on the observations of the smell, it would seem that oil has already seeped into the sewer system, according to Supt. Samuel Tadeo, Makati city fire marshal.

Tadeo said Basement 4 of the 22-story West Tower remained flooded due to the rains, making it difficult to siphon out the waste. He added that they needed to drain the basement to rid them check where the leak is coming from.

"The sooner that's draining the liquid from the basement, we would be changing the wastewater into a treatment plant," he told the because in an interview.

Tadeo said the rain was making their work harder because the authorities could not tell "how much oil is spilling out."

Calicon, who owns and operates a computer shop, said he does not use a hand to move his family out of their house.

"I think the city government should give us some face masks have because of the noxious smell," he said, as he expressed fear that the smell could trigger allergies or asthma among family members.

Meanwhile, Elton Ignacio, pipeline right-of-way chief of the Pinoy Philippine Industrial Corp., (PPIC), said that the company had been given the green light to resume normal operations in most any possibility of an oil shortage in the capital.

PPIC runs the pipeline system that delivers oil from refineries in Batangas to the Pandacan oil depots in Manila. The pipeline was shut down last Thursday in response to concerns that the leak was coming from it. This has been denied, however, by the company which has been looking for leaks in its pipeline.

"We resumed operations at around 6:30 p.m. Saturday while officials from the city engineering and Barangay Bangkal were inspecting parts of our line's exposed pipes," he said on the phone. "So far, so good. We have not detected any leak."

Malabon cop foils bike theft

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN OFF-DUTY Malabon policeman foiled an attempt to steal a motorcycle as he killed the thief in a shootout on Saturday night in Manila.

However, a young girl was injured when she was pinned down by the vehicle that was being stolen.

PO3 Raymund del Rosario of the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section said that at around 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, PO1 Sherwin Cassanova, a member of the Malabon City Police's police community precinct 2, was driving his motorcycle on his way home when he saw three men grabbing the motorbike of a couple on Leonardo Street near Geronimo Homeowners School in Sampaloc.

The off-duty policeman asserted the three men, who were also on a motorcycle, and introduced himself as a lawman.

Running gun battle

The thieves, however, fired upon him at one of them got on the stolen motorcycle while his cohorts escaped.

The policeman, meanwhile, managed to shoot the man on the stolen motorcycle while his cohorts escaped.

He was later identified as Randy Oliva, 24, a resident of Block 5, Lot 11, Model Community, Quezon Street in Tondo.

After he was hit, he lost control of the motorcycle which skidded in the direction of Maria Luisa Gabaldon, 6, who was playing in front of her house.

As the motorcycle toppled, it fell on top of the thief and the young girl. Both were brought to Ospital ng Sampaloc where the thief was declared dead on arrival from a gunshot wound to the back.

Victim under observation

The girl, on the other hand, remains under observation for her injuries, including several bruises and contusions.

The robber's body was brought to a funeral parlor for autopsy and subsequent while Cassanova surrendered his service pistol and submitted himself to authorities for investigation.

NBI recalls agents

By Tina G. Santos

NATIONAL BUREAU of Investigation (NBI) Director Magsaysay Ravidas has ordered a recall of the bureau's confidential agents, including those detailed with other agencies.

He added that he was also studying the possibility of dissolving units of the bureau that have redundant functions.

Ravidas said he had issued a memorandum ordering the recall of all confidential agents, including those detailed with other agencies.

He added that they were also determining if there were confidential agents assigned to politicians.

"I don't know if there are still those who are detailed with politicians," Ravidas said as he stressed that it is not the NBI's job to give protective security to VIPs.

Ravidas also revealed that he was considering the dissolution of some NBI units.

"There are units here that are redundant. I don't want to name for which ones, but there are," he said, adding that around 500 units were in need of additional personnel.

"We have to transfer some personnel to units that really need them. But we're still finding them. If it's necessary, new [units] will be created," he said.

MARTIAL ARTS STAR IN TOWN
"Bakbot" star John Fee strikes a pose for photographers. The international martial arts star is in Manila to promote his movie which is based on the popular video game.

QC gov't promises houses to 22,200 poor families

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A TOTAL of 22,200 poor families in Quezon City will be the first beneficiaries of a government housing program to be implemented by the new mayor.

In a statement, Mayor Herbert Bautista said the city government had turned over to the National Housing Authority (NHA) P18.5 million to facilitate the development of the National Government Center Eastside Housing Project on Commonwealth Avenue.

The amount was received by NHA General Manager Federico Lacas last week during the program's formal launch.

Bautista said that under the project which is being done in coordination with other government agencies, some 22,200 families would have their own houses in the following months.

"The plan, which joins with the city's comprehensive land use program, now serves as a guide for all the development activities in the area," Bautista said.

Based on government records, Quezon City has the largest number of informal settlers in Metro Manila.

The money Bautista said, would be used as payment for subdivision plans and the proper distribution of the land to the families that have lived in the area for years.

In his inaugural speech, the mayor had announced that he would fulfill his campaign pledge of implementing a "five-point housing program" which would serve as the "centerpiece" of his administration.

Bautista had also emphasized that education, health, roads and streetlights and environmental protection were also among his priority programs.

He said the distribution of the government lot was based on Republic Act No. 9207, otherwise known as the National Government Center Act of 2003 which provides security of tenure to bona fide residents of the NGC, including the approval of the blueprint for the utilization and development of the area.

The assistance, he added, was the city government's answer to the increasing number of informal settlers in the area.

US, S. Korea stage naval drill despite N. Korea's nuke threat

SEOUL—The United States and South Korea on Sunday launched a major naval exercise involving a nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier in the Sea of Japan despite North Korea's threats of nuclear retaliation.

The drill is the first in a series planned "to send a clear message to North Korea that its aggressive behavior must stop", US Defense Secretary Robert Gates and the South's Defense Minister Kim Tae-Young said in a joint statement this week after talks.

South Korea and the US, citing findings of a multinational investigation, accuse the North of torpedoing a South Korean warship near the tense Yellow Sea border in March.

The communist North denies involvement in the sinking of the Cheonan, which claimed 46 lives.

The US-led United Nations Command said the four-day drill would involve about 20 ships, including the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, and some 200 fixed-wing aircraft.

Some 8,000 service personnel from the two allies were to take part in the drill, it said.

"The USS George Washington left the southern port of Busan around 7 a.m. on Sunday. It's sailing towards the Sea of Japan (East Sea) for the exercise," a US military spokesperson said.

Officials at Seoul's defense ministry said other Navy ships had also left Busan and the nearby port of Jinhae for the drill, with some from the US 7th Fleet set to join them off the peninsula's east coast.

The ministry has said the drill had been released from the sensitive Yellow Sea (West Sea) so the fleet of Japan is deployed to Chinese provinces.

But Seoul's drills would be held in both seas.

North Korea has denounced the exercise as "very dangerous saber-rattling" and on Saturday threatened to respond with nuclear weapons.

Prompting modestly threatens war in response to joint military exercises by the two long-time allies, calling them a withdrawal for war.

"All these war maneuvers are nothing but outright provocations aimed to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by force of arms for all its peaceful purposes," the North's National Defense Commission said in a statement on Pyongyang's official news agency.

"The Army and people of the DPRK will legitimately counter with their powerful nuclear deterrence the forces ever more aggressive war exercises to be staged by the US and the South Korean puppet forces," The statement "in response to provocation by the enemy."

In response, Washington called on North Korea to tone down its "provocative" statements. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

EU to hammer Iran with oil sanctions

BRUSSELS—The European Union will hit Iran with tough sanctions against its vital oil and gas industry on Monday in a bid to lure Tehran back to the negotiating table over its disputed nuclear program. EU foreign ministers will formally approve the sanctions following Iran's repeated refusals to halt sensitive nuclear activities, which the West fears are aimed at building a bomb. The UN Security Council imposed a fourth set of sanctions on Tehran in early June, but EU leaders and the United States decided shortly after to impose their own penalties against the Iranian energy sector. AAP

Cleric: Women can show face in archaic countries

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—Associate Saudi cleric said on Saturday it is permissible for Muslim women to reveal their faces in countries where the culture and it banned by archaic interpretation, while deploring the effort to outlaw the garment in France. Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, is one of the few Muslim countries where women are banned by custom to cover their hair with head scarves and their bodies with cloaks called "abaya" to wear parts of the country. It is also common to see Saudi women wearing full-face veils. "We should not confront people in their countries or elsewhere," Sheik Abdul-Aziz Fawzan quoted as saying in the Saudi-owned daily Al-Hayat. "In case a ban is enforced against a Muslim woman there—and as a consequence there is a reaction or there are negative implications or harassment or harm—it is better for the Muslim woman to reveal her face." France, Belgium and Spain are debating legislation that would ban the veil. Other nations in Europe too have struggled to balance national identities with growing Muslim populations that have cultural practices that clash with their own. AP

British royals post family pictures on Flickr

LONDON—The British royal family has opened an account on photo-sharing website Flickr. Buckingham Palace announced on Sunday, in its latest attempt to move with the times. The free-to-access site will initially contain more than 400 photographs of Queen Elizabeth II on formal engagements, pictures from palace collections and portraits of the royals as young children. It will be continuously updated. The captioned images include baby photos of the queen and her son, Prince Charles, behind-the-scenes picks of a state banquet, and official portraits, recording of King George III's coronation in 1937. One of the oldest is a formal black-and-white photograph of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, taken at Buckingham Palace in May 1854 and previously being shown on an exhibition at the palace. Diana, Princess of Wales, Prince Charles, first with who died in a Paris car crash in 1997, is included in photos with her two sons, Princes William and Harry, although she does not have a dedicated "channel" like the other royals. AP

Pope grants broad powers to Legionaries prober

VATICAN CITY—The Pope has granted broad powers to the archbishop he named to investigate the Legionaries of Christ following revelations that the order's founder led a double life. A decree approved by Pope Benedict XVI and published on Saturday on the Legionaries' website said Archbishop Velasio De Paolis can overrule the Legionaries' own constitutions as he goes about reforming the order and purging it of its institutional abuses. The conservative order once hailed by the Vatican for its orthodoxy and ability to recruit priests fell into disarray starting last year as it admitted that its founder, the Rev. Marcial Maciel, sexually abused seminarians and fathered at least three children. AP

Putin sings patriotic songs with deported Russian spies

MOSCOW—Prime Minister Vladimir Putin revealed he met and even sang patriotic Soviet songs with the group of Russian spies deported from the United States in the biggest espionage swap since the Cold War.

Putin, who himself served as a KGB agent in the ex-East Germany in the dying years of the Soviet Union, said the group (excluded) Anna Chapman, the Russian woman whose glamorous looks turned her into a tabloid star worldwide.

"I met with them. We talked about life. We sang. It was not karaoke but live music," Putin told Russian reporters on a visit to Ukraine, according to a transcript posted on Sunday on the government website.

"We sang 'From Where the Motherland Begins,'" a hugely popular 1960s song made famous in a USSR film about a Soviet spy working in Nazi Germany.

"I'm not joking. I am serious. And other songs such a similar essence," said Putin.

The group of 10 spies, many of whom had been working for years undercover in the United States as deeper agents, returned to Russia earlier this month in a swap that saw Moscow send four Russian convicts to the West.

The 10 Kremlin agents had been accused in an FBI sweep that initially threatened to derail a rapid improvement in Russia-US relations championed by President Dmitry Medvedev.

Putin hinted that the agents' return had been driven as a result of "interest" and that he knew the names of those responsible.

"This was the result of tension and intensive always-and body. They finish up in disorder, addicts, on the street," said Putin.

Many ex-KGB spies have gone on the record slamming the shoddy and apparently anticipated spy ends of the 10, who were working for the Russian foreign intelligence service. AFP

Beijing slams US comments on Spratlys

BEIJING—China's foreign minister warned the United States on Sunday not to internationalize the issue of Spratly and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, where Beijing's territorial claims conflict with other nations.

"What common can there be if the issue is internationalized? This can only make matters worse and more difficult to solve," Yang Jiechi said.

"International practice shows that the best way to resolve these types of disputes are direct bilateral negotiations between the countries involved." His comments came two days after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking at the Asean Regional Forum in Vietnam, said resolving disputes over the South China Sea was "pivotal" to regional stability.

"The United States has a national interest in freedom of navigation, open access to Asia's maritime commons, and respect for international law in the South China Sea," she said. AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Queco

19 die in stampede at German festival

DUISBURG, GERMANY—Crowds of people streaming into a techno music festival surged through an already jammed entry tunnel, setting off a panic that killed 19 people and injured 340 at an event meant to celebrate love and peace.

The circumstances of the stampede on Saturday at the Love Parade festival in Duisburg in western Germany were still not clear even hours after the chaos, but it appeared that some or most of the 19 died from crushing to death.

Authorities also suggested that some of the people killed or injured might have attempted to flee the crowd by jumping over a border and falling several meters. Witnesses described a desperate scene, as people piled up on each other or scrambled over others who had fallen in the crush.

"The young people came to celebrate and instead there are dead and injured," said Chancellor Angela Merkel. "I am horrified by the suffering and the pain."

Criticism quickly fell on city officials for allowing only one entrance to the grounds of a hugely popular event that drew hundreds of thousands of people to dance, watch floats and listen to DJs spin. German media said 1.4 million people attended but that figure could not be immediately confirmed.

The founder of the Love Parade, Matthias Roeingh, known by the name Dr. Motte, blamed the planning for the event, saying "one single entrance through a tunnel leads itself to disaster. I am very sad."

City officials chose not to evacuate the site, fearing it might spark more panic, and many people continued partying, unaware of the deaths.

Emergency workers had trouble getting to the victims, hampered by the huge crowds. The area was a battle scene, with bodies lying on the ground and people milling around or crouching in them. Rescue workers carried many the injured on broken stands. Garbage littered the background.

Local media reported that the cell phone system in Duisburg broke down temporarily and beside parents trying to reach their children (special drives to the scene to look for them.

However, most events downtown were blocked by police and the highways leading to the city were jammed. Several media outlets also reported that rescue helicopters had problems taking away the horrific injured because there was not enough space for them to land.

Authorities believe the panic might have first been sparked outside the tunnel when some revelers tried to jump over a fence and fell, said Wolfgang Rabe, the head of the rescue unit set up by Duisburg city authorities.

Police Commissioner Juergen Rinkenauju said that just before the stampede occurred at about 5 p.m., police closed off the area where the parade was being held because it was already overcrowded. They told revelers over loudspeakers to turn around and walk back in the other direction before the panic broke out, he said.

Eyewitness Udo Seidlecker told ARD television that even though no one else was being let in, people still streamed into the tunnel, causing "a real mass panic."

"At some point the volume of people got stuck, probably because everything was closed up from, and we saw that the first people were already lying on the ground," he said.

"Others climbed up the walls and tried somehow to get into the grounds from the side, and the people in the tunnel first moved up rapidly, but then others who were lying on the ground."

Another witness, a young man who wasn't named, told news the hazard became so crowded that people began falling. "It got tighter and tighter from minute to minute and at some point everyone just vanished out," he said. "People were just pulled [apart] and they fell over."

Duisburg city officials decided at a crisis meeting to let the parade go on to prevent more panic and another stampede, said city spokesperson Frank Kopatschek.

It is the worst accident of its kind since nine people were crushed to death and 43 more were injured at a rock festival in Roskilde, Denmark, in 2000. That fatal accident occurred when a huge crowd pushed forward during a Pearl Jam gig.

The Love Parade was once an institution in Berlin, but has been held in the industrial Ruhr region of western Germany since 2005.

The original Berlin Love Parade grew from a 2000 person demonstration into a huge outdoor celebration of club culture that drew about 1.5 million people at its peak in 1999. But it suffered from financial problems and tensions with city officials in later years, and eventually unrest.

The website of the Love Parade—whose motto this year was "The Act of Love"—went black on Saturday night, with words in white saying:

"Our wish to arrange a happy togetherness was overshadowed by the tragic accidents today. Our sincere condolences to all the relatives and our thoughts are with all of those who are currently being taken care of." AP

REVELERS rush up a hill after panic broke out during the Love Parade in Duisburg, western Germany on July 24. AP

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- Digital Principles and Trends
- Mobile in Social
- Social Gaming
- Going Social With Your Brand
- Mobile Engagement
- Blog Marketing
- Digital is Influencing Brand Habits

Day 2: August 20, 2010, Friday
- Digital Engagement: The Drivers
- Integration Delivers Maximum Potential
- Are Your Marketing Efforts Adding Value To Your Relationship?
- Mobile Planning and Measurement
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Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

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FD/S Jun Rivero cuts off the path of UP's Mark Lopez during their game yesterday. ROGER ANGELES

Tams crush Maroons; Falcons nip Tigers

By Jeannina W. Paya

TERENCE ROMEO finally showed a glimpse of his impressive shooting as the Eastern University **roared in its fourth straight victory** with a 94-70 romp over winless University of the Philippines (1st UAAP season's basketball tournament yesterday at the Philsports Arena.

Romeo, who lived a staggering 82 points in our game as a junior last year, unloaded 10 straight of his game-high 21 points in a 12-3 run that put the Tamaraws back in control, 71-54, after the Maroons rallied within 58-52 in the third quarter.

"Their defense was concentrated on EB Garcia, so it's good that Terence stepped up," said coach Glenn Capacio. "[Romeo] can do everything. We knew he'd explode anytime."

In the second game, Adamson hacked another sizzling shooting performance by University of Santo Tomas rookie star a 79-71 triumph and grab a share of second behind the unbeaten Tamaraws.

Jamie Alvarez chilled 22 points, including nine of the Falcons' last 13 points that kept the rallying Tigers at bay in the final two minutes.

"We've really focusing on our rotation in the end game," said Adamson coach Leo Austria. "Our components were tenure, unlike last season where we usually lose in the end game."

The Falcons joined Ateneo de La Salle at 3-1, while the Tigers slipped to a three-way tie at 2-2 with defending champion Ateneo and National University.

UST again shot 10 three-pointers to a single game just three days after posting the same feat in their victory against the Maroons.

Jerie Tang hosted seven triples for a career-high 23 points, while Aric Serrano, who nailed eight more in his last outing, knocked in all of his 13 points from three-point range.

"Their shooters were marked men, but we couldn't execute our defense," said Austria. "But it's a good thing we recovered, we played good defense in the last three possessions."

The Falcons converted on UST's two consecutive turnovers in the dwindling seconds to surge ahead, 71-65, after trailing at 62-63.

Tang and Clark Bautista kept the Tigers in the fight, 73-71, after back-to-back triples with 2.1 seconds left, before Jerish Calinda stuffed Adamson's defensive with two free throws.

Adamson set the record for most number of triples at 16 in 2006, which UST duplicated twice on a span of three days.

The Maroons, with acting coach Boyet Fernandez at the helm, decided to their fourth straight loss three days after ousting Aboy Castro-Bleza's "leave of absence" from the team.

Adding to the Maroons' woes was the absence of rotation forward Woody Co, who was sidelined for the rest of the game after hurting his right foot early in the second quarter.

"I didn't step on anyone, my foot just landed **awkwardly**," said Co, who averaged 11.6 points and 7.7 rebounds in the Maroons' last three games.

The 5-foot-11 Romero, the former Ilaley Tam who capped last year's juniors MVP, also dished out four assists and had two steals for the Tamaraws.

"I was having a hard time at first because the players here are more matured, but I'm starting to adjust," said Romero.

The Maroons also have a former high-school MVP in their roster, Ateneo Smart, who shot a record 89 points in last year's NCAA juniors.

But Smart scored up for only five minutes to finish with two points.

The scores:

First game

ADAMSON (79) – Alvarez 22, Cervantes 10, Santos 9, Tuddenham 10, Rivero 8, Mamuyac 6, Canaleta 5, Bringas 2, Cruz 2, Mercado 2, Gonzales 0, Ingkiat 0, Lao 0, Lim 0.

UST (71) – Tang 23, Serrano 13, Bautista 9, Calinda 8, Lopez 6, Padilla 5, Jacinto 4, Jurd 3, Reyes Mi. 2, Sy 2, Pascual 0, Manuel 0, Evangelista 0, Mendoza 0, Soriano 0.

Quarters: 18-18, 40-40, 71-65, 79-71.

Second Quarter

ADAMSON (9) – Alvarez 7, Canaleta 0, Rivero 0, Cervantes 0, Santos 0, Tuddenham 0, Mamuyac 0, Bringas 0, Cruz 0, Mercado 0, Gonzales 0, Ingkiat 0, Lao 0, Lim 0.

UST (9) – Tang 23, Serrano 13, Calinda 11, Bautista 9, Padilla 5, Jacinto 4, Jurd 3, Reyes Mi. 2, Sy 2, Pascual 0, Manuel 0, Evangelista 0, Mendoza 0, Soriano 0.

Quarters: 18-18, 40-40, 71-65, 79-71.

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Host Meteors eye TOP leg crown in CDO

GABRIEL TUDAY
(Ateneo University gym, Cagayan de Oro City)
1 p.m. — Cebu vs. Tagaig
7 p.m. — Meralco Dynamo vs. Meralco
(This is — Meralco Dynamo vs. Meralco)

MEMARU OBERSTAL hopes to boost its playoffs bid when it hosts the fifth leg of the Tournament of the Philippines (TOP) today while JG Llanillos frustrates Pinduko Cebu eyes redemption at the Xavier University gym in Cagayan de Oro City.

The Meteors open their bid for a second leg season against three leg runners-up Sacred Lagundi at 7:30 p.m. while the Cebu Sillos collide with Hobe Mineral Taguig City at 7:30 p.m.

A brief opening ceremony will highlight the affair with prominent basketball officials, led by Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno and Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) executive director Noli Eala leading the special guests in the event jointly organized by the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) and Liga Filipinas.

Expected to lead the assault of the Jun Noel-mentored Meteors are former UniAD scoring champion Patrick Gabriwag, Bert Hugnatan and former pro Neil Antonio.

After riding the Mandaue leg three weeks ago, the Meteors bowed again to the mighty Sillos in the leg hosted by the latter.

"With the support of the crowd, we hope we can get back on them (Sillos)," said the durable center Noel. "We need to win this leg to boost our playoffs bid."

The Meteors, however, will have to double, if we triple their efforts since Tagaig and Sacred Lagundi are also aiming to win the leg crown to enhance their cross bids.

But they have to be wary of the Sillos who are expected to bounce back after their sorry performance last week when their 30-game winning run was halted by the less talented SBP-Grosan squad featuring rookie Mitoray Bequillo.

The 5-foot-11 Romero, the former Ilaley Tam who capped last year's juniors MVP, also dished out four assists and had two steals for the Tamaraws.

"I was having a hard time at first because the players here are more matured, but I'm starting to adjust," said Romero.

The Maroons also have a former high-school MVP in their roster, Ateneo Smart, who shot a record 89 points in last year's NCAA juniors.

But Smart scored up for only five minutes to finish with two points.

BIEL CHESSFEST

So keeps second with another draw

SO: Playing it safe

Standings after six rounds:
4 points — 1 Cavanes (Sui); 2-5—W Ye (PR), W. Fischer-Legion (France), L. Dmitrenko (Russia), S. Antonio (Russia), Kilimnikov (Israel), 3—8.5: Dong Yee (Taiwan), 3.5—6: Go (Netherlands), 4.5—3: Ray Jordan, 5: Israel (England).

BIEL, SWITZERLAND—GM Wesley So of the Philippines settled for a draw with GM Evgeny Romanishin of Russia in the sixth round Saturday to remain within striking distance of the lead in the 2013 Biel Young Grandmasters chess championship here.

The draw was reached after only 24 moves of the Queen's Gambit Declined as both players opted to play it safe after five serious-packed games.

When the game was drawn, the 23-year-old Filipino-Canadian had a queen, rook, two knights and an opposite-colored bishop, while the 55-year-old Russian had a queen, rook, two knights and the same number of pawns.

"Romanishin played safely and Wesley did the right thing by not taking unnecessary risks with still three rounds remaining," commented National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) executive director Willie Ahaka, who followed the game analysis with IM Chito Garma and chess friends until late Saturday.

The draw left both So and Romanishin in a three-way tie for second to fourth places with top seed GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, GM Dmitry Andreikin of Russia and GM Maxim Rodshtein of Israel at 5.5 points.

Now 10th-seeded Indonesian GM Julianto Gunawan of India heads with four points.

Vachier-Lagrave, the highest-rated player here with an Elo of 2722, regained the lone victory for the day when he beat GM David Howell of England.

The three other members in this 13-player, all-GM tournament—Gunawan against GM Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son of Vietnam, Andreikin against Rodshtein and GM Asrik Gavi of the Netherlands against GM Pentyanan Singi of India—also ended in draws.

The players take a much-needed break Sunday before returning to action for the final three rounds.

The seventh round will resume at 2 p.m. Monday (9 p.m., Manila time) with So hoping to get back into contention when he moves Truong Son, one of the fast-rising young players from Vietnam.

After two consecutive games with the black pieces against Gavi and Tomashevsky, he will handle white against Truong Son.

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Lady Stags stretch V-League run

Balse shines as Lyceum rips St. Benilde, logs 2nd victory

By Cedrik P. Tupas

SAN SEBASTIAN coach Roger Gorayeb is obviously selling the fear in Bella Belen right now this time for his Lady Stags.

San Sebastian flattened counted in a 27-25, 25-20, 25-15 victory over Perpetual Help yesterday to stretch its winning run to four games in the Shakey's V-League Season 7 second conference at the FilOil Flying V Arena.

But Gorayeb says he three impressed, saying the Lady Stags squad should have won the first set to convincing fashion.

"We were terrible in the first," said Gorayeb in Filipino. "We were hitting balls which were supposed to be out and letting go of balls which were going in."

Responding to Gorayeb's challenge after their scrambling first set, the Lady Stags found just enough mettle, easily winning the next two frames to wrap up the victory in an hour and 13 minutes.

Top import Amy Bunao and Suzanne Roces found all sorts of gaps in the Perpetual Help defense as the Lady Stags seized their place in the quarterfinal round with three games remaining in their elimination round schedule.

Later, Lyceum walloped St. Benilde in straight sets, 25-12, 25-13, 25-15, to move within a victory of reaching the next round.

Mary Joys Balse provided the firepower with 18 points while Joy Cases, Jamie Rose Rosa and Dahlia Cruz combined for 36 as Lyceum bounced back from a stinging defeat to Adamson last Tuesday.

Balse finished with a game-high 17 points, while Rosa had 13 for the Lady Stags, who outscored the Lady Altas, 56-35, on attacks.

The Lady Stags came within 19-20 in the second set, before the Lady Stags scored five of the next seven points with Rosa's tip making it 2-win in love.

Balse summoned the Lady Stags' world assault, scoring six of the first eight points in the second set, when San Sebastian raced to a 16-7 advantage.

But a spate of errors allowed Perpetual Help to chip the deficit, 12-15, before Balse conjured three consecutive attacks that all but wrapped up the match, 23-13.

JOYCE Bunao of SSC-Excelsior (right) finds little resistance from Perpetual's Kath Bulanan in their game yesterday ALDEN TRILLO/PSN

Rivalry produces another big-shot player

WHEN THE De La Salle-Ateneo rivalry comes up in conversations in offices or markets, it can alienate those who don't give a hoot about it. It's like when golfers start spinning stories and those who don't play the game just tune out.

But basketball's age-old rivalry engages those every where and the battle last Sunday was one of the most thrilling encounters in that.

There were the usual elements of the game that make it unique regardless of the team: mutual, the schedule and the strengths of each side. The Green and Blue contenders entered one in full force, the heads and cheerleaders got that extra cocoa of spirit and the nine raised-down ribbing between the two sides still surfaced. If you know what's to have.

What made this game engaging is the emergence of a new big shot player in sophomore Joseph Hanns after earned two triples during La Salle's 13-1 rally in the last three minutes. Hanns gave the Archers the arrows they needed when all seemed lost. La Salle persevered to win, 66-63, after being down by as many as nine in the end game.

UAAP TV anchorman Noon Gonzales tells me Hanns is the nephew of former PBA player Quick Drew Re-Re Hanns, who was several times guests during contests and could nail a crucial toy when needed. That's awfully good three-point DNA going through the Hanns clan.

Ateneo couldn't deliver the winning baskets in the stretch after hitting eight for eight in the first seven minutes of the finale. In the end, Ateneo's hustled valid bonus which La Salle turned into opportunities. Ateneo searched for that player who could give them that last chance to eke out a win and found none.

When the games are done and just done the fine of losing on both sides of the Big Dome, the rivalry usually unveils a big shot player. Or players. It's not just about making the winning shots but burying those that succeeding momentum to one side.

In recent history of the duel, Chris Tiu and Jet Hayle were Ateneo's relative snipers.

But one of the best has got to be Ian Seiler's Peyton Rivero, who earned the name Crown and White squad on his back in 2001 to win the title against Ateneo in the second half of Game 3.

Coach Jeo Lipa once told me that when scouting for a scorer, you should ask "Is he willing to take the big shot?" Take a close look at their eyes. You know they want the ball or crunch time and they are going for the basket. The defense will be all over them but they will often find a way to score. It starts from a steely resolve and confidence that the shot will go in no matter how awkward it was released or how many defenders they defend.

Ateneo is just beginning to play in this (series) hard court battle. But there's no doubt he can take the big shot in a UAAP season. But's just beginning to reveal those who are bona enough to do so.

ONE GAME AT A TIME

JOE SORIANO

Blu Girls, cagebelles in must-win quest

ROMANJAVIER

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S GOLD or bust.

That's the only choice the Philippine Olympic Committee has given the national teams in women's softball and women's basketball: to squeeze into the SEA delegation to the Guangzhou Asian Games.

Amid chief of mission Joey Romasanta yesterday said they won't settle for anything less than the championship when the SEA Blu Girls Champs in the Asian Softball Championship next month, and the SEA cagebelles in the Jiaxing in October.

"That's the challenge we passed on them. We can no longer look backwards to accommodate them," Romasanta said.

Despite major revamp in its Southeast Asian games champion squad, the Blu Girls are heavy favorites in the Asian women's softball championship in Jakarta on July 29 to Aug. 3. The SEA women's basketball team will enjoy homecourt advantage since the country is hosting this year's Stanka tournament.

The Asian technical committee has given national sports association until Aug. 2 to submit their Asiad choices. The committee will present the candidates to the POC executive council on Aug. 11.

"It's up to the POC executive council to approve, disapprove or amend the composition. So by Aug. 11, I would already have a national delegation," he added.

Romasanta also said they need a chaff reduction from the Asian Games organizers whether the country will be sanctioned if a team is withdrawn for failing to win its targeted.

"The deadline for submission of names is August, while the Stanka (Southeast Asian basketball championships) is in October," he said. "We need to have protection from any sanction not only in the SEA but also in the delegation."

Meanwhile, the Asiad joint task force will meet today to discuss the country's preparation for the Guangzhou Games.

Romasanta will head the POC panel along with technical committee members Moying Martelino and Charlie Suntaxi while new POC chair Richie Garcia has yet to choose the members of the POC group.

Long distance no problem for Catiil, Gonzales

DONATION FROM the Olympic treasurer to long distance triathlon runners hastily capitalized for Mark Catiil and Sarah Gonzales. Gonzales as they called the 1st Triathlon Long Distance Triathlon held yesterday at the scenic Mandaluyong Beach Resort and Hotel in Lian, Batangas.

The 33-year-old Cagayan de Oro native Catiil leaned on his strength in the bike to pull away from the field led by reigning Philippine Half Ironman champion Cristian Aquino and dominate the 26-miler, 6th bike and 10k run event.

"The main reason for because there was a bike that that was my strengths," Catiil said in Filipino. "But I struggled a bit because the long bike runs in the country since the Asian Triathlon in December and I wasn't able to prepare because it keeps on raining in Cagayan de Oro."

Catiil finished the course in three hours, 16 minutes and 22 seconds.

Aquino came in a the second at 3:27:05 to the race organized by Bike Ring with 70.67 officiating the event.

"For a the first long distance race, the conditions are fine for runs racing it like an Olympic distance. He really is the future of Philippine triathlon," said Aquino, the former Asian Aquino triathlon champion.

Top duathlete August Hernandez, who is being supported by Pampi Mayor Miguel "Dave" C. Mirilla, placed third in 2:39:04.

Arlene Lim was nine other member of the Southeast Asian Games Gonzales into a calculated race, conserving her energy for the set leg to upstage Jenny Ellis in the female elite of the event also supported by PLDT SME Station, 100 Plus Drink and MSME.

"This last time I competed in triathlon since the water was cold I was really nervous. I had a number of minor mistakes and at times didn't know what to do. This is a good experience as I can prepare myself better in future long distance events," explained Gonzales who clocked 3:36:22.

Ellis came in 3:39:37 while Ayesha Aquino finished at third place in 4:08:32.

Aside from elite class, action also took place also in the age group and team competition with the Philippine Triathlon Team coach-up of Epoy Inso, Menard Abad and John Lorenzo. Dicaos beating Globe My Super Hunand Globe Super Duo squads.

Male age group winners were Benjamin Rucio (18-29), Philip Arenas (30-39), Hank Ellis (40-49), and Alfie an Mirabuan (50& over) while Annie Silva (18-29) and Lauren Paredes (30& over) were crowned champions in the female age group.

Three De Leon received a special award for being the oldest finisher.

NU Bullpups, Eaglets lead UAAP juniors

THERE'S an unmistakable air of confidence surrounding the NU Bullpups nowadays.

By Jasmine W. Payo

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY sustained its surprisingly strong start to share the lead with powerhouse Ateneo in the UAAP juniors basketball competition over the weekend at the 9500-6 Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Both the Bullpups and the Blue Eaglets, who are wielding a third straight crown, picked up their fourth straight victory against separate opponents.

Roque Ilocos drained 23 points and Jamel Natanaga added 18 to power the Bullpups to a 74-52 drubbing of last year's runner-up La Salle Zobel Junior Archers.

The Blue Eaglets steamrolled the Adamson Baby Falcons, 78-63, with Vin Pecannial scoring 13 of his 23 points in the last quarter.

In women's action, the Ateneo University joined title Adamson on top at 3-0 to the Lady Tamaraws downed the La Salle Lady Archers, 61-44, yesterday in the FilOil arena.

Kiesh Colmenta shot 18 points and Alyssa Lao also posted 10 numbers and 17 rebounds in pace the Lady Tamaraws.

For her, Jennifer Clemencio collected 13 points, four rebounds, four steals and three assists to lift the Lady Eagles past the Lady Bulldogs, 61-58, for a 2-1 record.

The Lady Bulldogs dropped to 1-2 along with La Salle, University of Santo Tomas and University of the Philippines.

In other high school action, the Baby Tamaraws roasted the University of the East Junior Warriors, 93-66, while the Tiger Cubs crushed the Junior Maroons, 120-68.

The Tiger Cubs, Baby Tamaraws and Baby Bulldogs wound up with similar 2-2 slates.

NCAA

Lanete week's best

DANILO MEDINA CORT
4 MAR Flying V Arena
7:30 p.m. — SJ Builders vs AFC
Game — Perpetual Help vs Lyceum
3 p.m. — SJ Builders vs AFC
4 p.m. — Perpetual Help vs Lyceum

By Cedrik P. Tupas

GARVO LANETE stood out with his mental shooting that lifted San Beda past Lyceum three times and crowned the Lions' seven-game streak to four games in the 77-68 win of the Knights last Wednesday.

"He just knows when to step up," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim of Lanete, the Accel/PSLM NCAA Press Corps Player of the Week. "He can hit big shots when you need it from him, that's how good this kid is."

The 22-year-old guard also grabbed five rebounds and two assists with the same number of steals for the Lions, last year's runners-up who loom as the strongest contender to bar Letran's reign.

Lim feels tested double-digit leads early before the Knights threatened late in the third quarter by cutting the Lions' lead to 58.

That's when Lanete stepped up the plate, pouring eight points in a telling 14-0 run that sealed the outcome early.

Lanete edged rookie sensation Bodoy Acido of Arellano U Chiefs, Ateneo Eaglegring of Jose Rizal U and San Beda-man's Calvin Abueva for the weekly honors.

Unson tops US Women's Am elims

UNSON

ANDREA UNSON assembled a one-four-two round of 4-under-par 68 to emerge the low medalist in the US Women's Amateur Sectional Qualifier at the Riverside Country Club in Stockton, California last week.

Unson, winner of the San Diego Junior Masters early this month, hit all fairways and had 29 putts in her 34-34 card.

After tying for 14th in the premier division of the Rancho Murieta in San Diego two weeks ago, Unson burned 72 other qualifiers in one of the sectional eliminations for this year's US Women's Amateur slated Aug. 9-15 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Her driving was awesome and she played really well," said ILTC team coach Jong Lopez.

Sarah Shehu carded a one-over 73 and wound up seventh to make the eight players cut to the Stockton eliminations.

Others who join Unson are Mia Dionio and Lovelyna Gutingko in the tournament proper of the premier US women's amateur event.

Contador nears 3rd Tour crown

GIVERAL. Iconic Alberto Contador of Spain celebrates after crossing the finish line of the 12-km individual time trial in the 19th stage. AFP

PRUILLAC, FRANCE—Alberto Contador is set to win his third Tour de France title in four years after retaining the yellow jersey in the next-to-last stage on Saturday.

Fabian Cancellara won the time trial, but the 27-year-old Contador held on in his to-the-bitter lead over Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, who had started the 19th stage in second place, 8 seconds back.

"I am very relieved. It was a difficult Tour and I'm very happy" said Contador, who wiped away tears, took a deep breath and his hand trembled as he finger-guarded the crowd—his trademark gesture—after dousing the yellow jersey.

"I think it's the first Tour that has given me so much emotion, you can't imagine it."

Schleck, who is 23 years old, finished second to Contador for the second straight year, and he had no regrets.

"Beating Contador is not easy, but I tried every thing," Schleck said. "I am happy and I'll come back more year to win."

Riders set off one by one down a starter's ramp for the 52-kilometer (32.3-mile) race against the clock that set the final positions in the podium.

Cancellara, one of the world's top time trial riders, won by outpacing Tony Martin of Germany, who was second, 17 seconds back. Bert Grabsch of Germany was third, 1 minute, 48 seconds behind the winner.

Contador tore 33th, 3:42 back, while Schleck finished 44th, 6:14 behind Cancellara. Tour 31-second difference extended the Spaniard's second lead to 8 seconds.

Jurgen Marschow of Russia, who won the 2009 Giro d'Italia, mounted an impressive time trial and overtrame Samuel Sanchez of Spain to serve third place overall.

Marschov had begun the day in fourth, 21 seconds back of Sanchez, but nearly four minutes behind Contador and Schleck. The Russian finished at 3:16.—AFP, with a report from Cecil Morella in Angeles, Clarke

Choi, Johnson share Stockholm top spot

STOCKHOLM—K.J. Choi of South Korea and Richard Johnson of Sweden share the lead at the Scandinavian Masters after the third round Saturday, and now battle 18-time champion Louis Oosthuizen blew a chance to join them.

Downed on by a large home crowd, Johnson raised four birdies with two bogeys in the rainy and windy conditions at Bro Hof Slott in a 1-under 71 round.

Oosthuizen could have made it a three-way tie for the lead, but he bogeyed his final hole to end on a 73 and at 9-under.

"I had a great time today and my game felt OK. I wasn't really nervous at all today so it worked out really nice," Johnson said.

However, he added that the conditions made play tough.

"The winds are so strong that it was almost pushing the ball down a little bit sometimes," he said. "It was very difficult."

Choi hit water at the 12th, where his opted to make sure the winner to take a shot at a difficult ball. He said afterward that it was the the first time he had done that during a golf tournament.

"It was very cold," Choi said.

Oosthuizen—who could become the first player to follow a British Open victory with a European Tour win a week later—said he was disappointed with his score but was aiming to climb past the others in the final round on Sunday.

"I made two thinking errors on the course and it cost me two bogeys," he said.

Irish Brown of New Zealand had the best score of the day with a 67 and shares fourth place with Argentina's Rafa Echenique at 208.

Pavin sets meeting with Woods

Meanwhile, American Ryder Cup captain Corey Pavin will talk to Tiger Woods at once on the US PGA Championship to have a suburbs but various as he to Nicholson at Celtic Manor in Wales in October.

Woods has seventh in the points table that will provide eight automatic members for the United States against Europe.

As the Masters, when asked about the Ryder Cup, Woods simply said: "Would I like to play in it? It's qualify."

JOHNSON Co-leader

Ex-RP riders, Benosa snare Asiad berths

JOKGJO DA dos roads events last week, veteran rider Alvin Benosa came back strong yesterday by riding the mountain bike cross-country qualifying race in wire-to-wire fashion to clinch a spot in the Philippine team bound for the Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

Pulling away early, Benosa efficiently negotiated the challenging and treacherous 44-km route in Bagong Bulog, Taguig City City, clocking the finish line to an hour and 11.75 seconds to emerge Bonifacio Asian Games champion Nilo Sorbito, who came in second after clocking in 20 seconds later.

Mountain Mountain wise (third), finishing 30 seconds behind Benosa, while Rachilo Quilinon took the last qualifying spot by finishing fourth, a minute and 47 seconds behind the winner.

"I was facing tough competition, but I thought this was my best chance of making the team," said Benosa.

Among riders who have already clinched Asiad spots are Warren Davadilla, Arnold Manalo, Ronnel Hualda, Nilo Jenaro and Reinhard Gerasmo. *Gerald B. Digno*

Cut in PSC budget a no-brainer

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Mejo

All A longtime sports journalists, I feel it is time for the Aquino government and the 15th Congress to address the diminishing budget of the Philippine Sports Commission.

Since 2002, Congress has drastically cut the allocation given to the PSC, raising quizzical eyebrows among sports officionados.

"We don't know how we can win the gold medal in the 2012 London Olympics with this puny resources for sports?" they asked. This question is now confounding now PSC chair Richie Garcia, a man I can commiserate as of the government's sports agency.

Earlier, Philippine Olympic Committee president and former Taiba congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco lamented the government's cold treatment of his agency.

Said Cojuangco, President Aquino's uncle: "It seems that we are the only the country whose government has no interest in sports. All the other countries have been trying their best to produce world class athletes, but this is not the case in the Philippines."

It is no secret that past administrations have treated sports as a poor relation and therefore it did not enjoy adequate funding. Because of this, the government should help these impoverished sports associations whose coffers are often empty.

As I have repeatedly emphasized, Philippine sports will remain stagnant for as long as the government takes sports for granted. Local sports only gets the crumbs while the other government departments like defense, education, health, foreign affairs, justice, agriculture and environment and natural resources get huge budgetary allocations, not to mention special cash incentives.

It is good that Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero's has vowed to support efforts to get additional funding for the PSC. The senator from Bicol said the sports agency deserves all the money the government can give it, but he stressed the PSC should be accountable for every centavos that it would be spending to avoid another embarrassing Olympic debacle.

The Philippines has not won an Olympic medal in the last three stagings of the Olympic Games, in 1996 in Atlanta, 2000 in Sydney, 2004 in Athens and 2008 in Beijing. The country has won seven Olympic medal—a silver—courtesy of boxer Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco in the 1996 Atlanta Games and Londres.

"We are aware of the needs of our athletes," said Escudero. "I will support efforts to increase the PSC budget as long as the agency is able to convince us where the people's money will be used and for what purpose."

This perennial lack of funding is our compelling reason why Philippine sports continues to deteriorate. Even the basic needs of the athletes such as training equipment, decent living quarters, food and vitamins have often been neglected.

Sports development being expensive as a journalist, I have always banted for government support for a developing country like ours. And, as far as I'm concerned, the monetary assistance given in the PSC is not even government intervention because sports development is the primary responsibility of the government.

That is why in almost all countries, the government subsidizes sports, in one case, the PSC.

"Sports should be a national concern," said a diehard fan. "With the support of the government, we can fully discover and develop the ability of potential Filipino athletes."

* * *

ODDS AND ENDS: Do you know that the only shooting medal Manila is the story of the sports ing medal? It's because the US, which has no sports agency is funded chiefly by private firms and individuals.... Win Ki Pond'S Ball championship Miss "Bets" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Buenaventure are not competing in the 2010 Guinness World Records Championships set July 28 to Aug. 7 in Jakarta because both are endorsers of San Miguel Beer, a competitor of Guinness, an Irish stout beer.

Pressel grabs third round lead at Evian

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, FRANCE—Morgan Pressel of the United States took the lead at the Evian Masters after the third round on Saturday shooting a 3-under 67 to move on 11-under and two strokes clear of South Korean Inbee Park and Jeong Jang.

Pressel had been tied with Sweden off the lead overnight after managing only a par 72 on Friday, but hit birdie with four birdies and no single on the final hole of the day.

Shin, who was briefly ranked No. 1 in the world following Lorena Ochoa's retirement this year, had five birdies and a bogey in a record of 68, while Jang hit 70.

Overnight leader Mika Miyazato of Japan (74) fell four strokes behind Pressel after a patchy round which featured three consecutive bogeys and five overall. *AP*

Senior Open: Langer up by three shots

CARNOUSTIE, SCOTLAND—Bernhard Langer took a three-shot lead in the Senior British Open after shooting a 2-under 69 in the third round at Carnoustie Saturday.

The German has yet to win on the US Champions Tour but is well-placed to change that after outplaying his nearest rival, Corey Pavin.

The pair are one as joint leaders at 6-under but three bogeys dropped the American Ryder Cup team captain to 1 over 72.

Despite his lead, Langer was weary of Carnoustie's fearsome reputation.

"This golf course is one of the toughest links you will ever play," he said. *AP*

Veterans take charge in Growers Hip 2B Fit run

AURET DE ASIS outsprinted fellow veteran runners Rafael Poliquit Jr. and Bernardo Ocampo Jr. to rule the inaugural Growers Hamilton Hip 2B Fit run held at the UP Diliman campus recently.

The 37-year-old De Asis crossed the 14K finish line in 53 minutes and 22 seconds. Only one second separated runners-up Poliquit (53:40) and Ocampo (53:41).

De Asis, whose wins this year include Subic Bora on Bulilanan 14K last March and National Geographic Channel and Mountaineer 5K both held in April, pocketed P7,000.

Poliquit and Ocampo settled for P5,000 and P3,000, respectively.

In the distaff side, Luisa Ravena emerged hemer with a time 37:26, followed by Evelyn Carmen (39:31) and Mildred Abad (40:06).

The 26-year-old Ravena is coming off a win in the 36th Milo Marathon 42K eliminations in Manila last July 4.

The event, which also featured 10K, 5K and 3K patrons-child divisions, was for the benefit of the UP Pinlyah program in almed to generate living wages to the campus as a source of some portables and to honor the dependence on land-driven vehicles.

Growers Hamilton donated bike racks to be installed around the campus where UP Pinlyah members can safely park their bicycles. *Ramona E. Asuncion*

Other winners: 10K male: Alvin Obiana (1:14, Jason Lacson (1:16, Jerome Abate (1:31, 5K female: Anni Mabini (1:38, Michelle De Jesus (1:40, Mayor Jhon Carlos (2:20, 3K male: Alvin Avila (4:47, Jan Daniel Amoranto (4:44, Jonna Sangalang (4:47, 3K female: Rainy Peñaro (6:06, Jessica Ann Cruz (6:25, 3K male: Ernesto Cabil, Lyndon Dan Tejon, Jonathan Sandoval, Angelo Cole Santos (6:29

SPORTSWATCH

Richie, Peping in PSA Forum

THE COURTS IN THE sports officials and Team Philippines to the Youth Olympic Games in this week's session of the PSA forum at Shakey's UP Diliman.

Philippine Sports Commission president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and newly-appointed Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia share the limelight in the 10:00 a.m. session with PSC Chief de Mission Juliet Joseph and the nine athletes and their coaches who will compete the IOC delegation to the Singapore games set second week of August.

The public sports program, to be aired live over ZOOM Sports Radio, is presented by Outland Hunters, Pagcor, Asset and Shakey's.

Tan pulls off another sweep

WILLIAM TAN displayed nerves of steel to pull off a second straight win that finished at No. 1 Golf on the golf course in the ZOOM Video-Nations Philippine Amateur Championship held recently in Clark.

Tan completed the 72-hole event in 17 strokes and 0.25 if necessary or is the 3.377 seconds ahead of Mike Tuazon, who also bagged the P 2,000 prize money. Bjorn Dagbakken and 17-year-old Miguel Gamela.

Tan finished his grip on the coveted trophy P 70 points, Tuazon finish by 69 with 960.

San Beda graduate Dagbakken and Gamela closed Jose Perez who finished third overall.

Perez celebrated the tempo during the first 13 laps until Tan caught up and never looked back.

ACTIVE and runner Donna Cruz-Lorenzana (right) join volunteers during a cross-planting activity at the Ipo Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan recently. Runners who joined the Metro Manila race last May made a commitment to join the project.

ACE HARDWARE AND DAVIES PAINT ECO-FRIENDLY RUN

(L-R): Sports Anchor and Frisbee Champ Reema Chanco, Davies Paint Philippines Inc. Vice President for Marketing Albert Gan Lee, and First Sole Survivor Philippines JC Tuason.

Second placer Lana Jacel Mercado- (2nd from left) and third placer Akiko Hashimoto, 10K winners in women's division in the Eco-Friendly Run with Davies Paint Philippines Inc. Vice President for Marketing Albert Gan Lee, Davies Paint Philippines Inc. Marketing Director Edison Orbiana (4th) and ACE Hardware's Senior Assistant Vice President for Merchandising Mark Chua.

4,232 participants ran for health and the environment.

The 10K winners in men's division are Willy Tanut - champion (2nd from left), Reginaldo delos Reyes - 2nd placer and Roy Martin Santos - 3rd placer. They are shown in this photo with ACE Hardware's Merchandise Manager Jayson Tan, ACE Hardware's Assistant Division Merchandise Manager Anthony Dy and ACE Hardware's Senior Assistant Vice President for Merchandising Mark Chua.

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Deltek Director Jeff Civjte

They ran, got fit, and helped save the environment. When some 4,232 participants recently competed in the **ACE Hardware and Davies Paint Eco-Friendly Run**, they not ran for health and wellness, but also to help support SM Foundation's mangrove projects in Navotas, Batangas.

Led by Sports Anchor and Frisbee Champion Reema Chanco and First Sole Survivor Philippines JC Tuaseo, participants in the 3 kilometer, 5 kilometer, and 10 kilometer categories went around the SM Mall of Asia.

The top three winners in the 3k, 5K, and 10K categories received cash prizes and gift packs, while those were in fourth to 10th places, received gift packs. A Special Award was given to Deltek Company, who came in 194 strong, with the team with the most number of participants.

Raffle prizes from the sponsors also added excitement to the event: 50 Black and Decker Multi Tool Sets, 40 Top 1 Oil items, 20 pieces of Spyder Mercenary Eyewear, 17 pieces of Spyder Enigma Eyewear and 3 Dewalt Mountain Bikes.

Davies Paint Philippines VP for Marketing Albert Gan Lee and Marketing Director Edison Orbiana awarded the prizes together with ACE Hardware Senior AVP for Merchandising Mark Chua, Assistant Division Merchandise Manager Anthony Dy, and Merchandise Manager Jayson Tan awarded the prizes.

The **ACE Hardware and Davies Paint Eco-Friendly Run** is a project of ACE Hardware and Davies Paint with support from ACE Builders, ACS Paints, Black and Decker, Top 1 Oil, Spyder Shades, Dewalt, Croslon, Landlite, Akari Lighting & Electrical, Omni Electrical & Lighting, California Scents, Sports Central, Surplus Schick safety razors, Summit Media, Pioneer Xtreme Mighty Rond and SM Mall of Asia.

EIKI
BRAIN

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Martinez

BUSINESS

NSA SERIES

URC, Unilab lock horns over Pure Foods

2 firms on San Miguel's shortlist to undertake due diligence

By Doris C. Dumlao

UNIVERSAL ROBINA Corp. of the Gokongwei group, and Unilab, the pharmaceutical firm of the Campos family, are the only ones left standing in the bid to acquire a strategic stake in the country's largest food company San Miguel Pure Foods Co.

Two sources privy to the bidding process told the Inquirer that URC and Unilab were the two prospective investors picked out by conglomerate San Miguel Corp. to stay in the race.

San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang on Friday said that the two shortlisted bidders would "proceed to further due diligence prior to final negotiations."

Ang did not reveal the identity of the investors.

San Miguel is divesting a significant stake in SMPFC in hopes its war chest and allow the diversifying conglomerate to take its stakes to higher yielding heavy industries like power and utilities.

With the help of financial adviser JP Morgan, San Miguel received proposals from a number of investors the other week.

At the start of the SMPFC auction, there were only five bidders.

San Miguel on Friday said that it would only offer a "minority" stake for sale in SMPFC. But some equity analysts and the bidders, especially URC, would likely negotiate for a majority stake because anything less would mean that the new investor might not be able to use the food unit's cash flow for expansion.

One source familiar with the initial round of bidding said San Miguel was offering "either 40 percent or 100 percent" of SMPFC, and that pricing would depend on the scale of the new investor's acquisition. SMPFC is estimated to be worth around $1.3 billion.

San Miguel's food unit has a market capitalization of $767.5 billion as of Friday's close, soaring from only $9.5 billion in the last three months. URC's market capitalization is a bit higher at P68.3 billion.

SMPFC enjoys the biggest domestic market share in poultry (40 percent) and hotdog (42 percent). Its market share in the canned meat segment also remained at 20 percent. In the canned beef segment alone, the company has an estimated market share of 30 percent, making it the second largest player.

Over the years, SMPFC has diversified into poultry and livestock operations, hotdog and flour milling, dairy and coffee, and franchise operations.

Among the food brands in its portfolio are Magnolia, Purefoods, Monterey, Star, Hotdog Corner, Hotdog and Pure Blend.

The company used to be

(SEE P2)

INQUIRER MONITOR

RP ranks 86th in terms of market env't
(Global Information Technology Report 2009-2010)

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July 23, 2010
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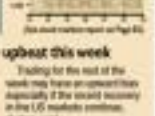
STOCK MARKET
July 23, 2010
1.2



Stocks seen to be upbeat this week

LEGAL STOCKS may open in an upbeat mood today on the back of buoyant overseas markets as well as potential positioning ahead of President Aquino's first State of the Nation Address.

Trading for the rest of the week may have an upward bias especially if the recent recovery in the US markets continues, dealers said.

(STOCKS B2)

ING: Investors take long hard look at RP

DUTCH FINANCIAL giant ING is upbeat on banking investment prospects for the Philippines in the aftermath of the recent presidential elections.

China Investment Corp., the world's fifth largest sovereign wealth fund, is now doing due diligence on the Philippines to evaluate investment prospects here after top CIC officials visit of the country last week, according to an ING executive.

"A change in the government will always result in a lot more excitement, but one thing that's noticeable is that foreign investors had a spike in interest," ING Philippines chief executive officer Consuelo Garcia told the business staff during a briefing.

"We've had a lot of inquiries and, in fact, some [investors] have come over here," Garcia said, noting that ING brought in top officials from China's CIC to meet with the new government economic managers last week.

Garcia said CIC, with up to $400 billion in assets under management, has some investment in listed local equities but is now taking a look at other opportunities.

"And they're not the only one," Garcia said, saying that there had been a surge in foreign investor interest on specific sectors like food, power and banks.

"We're trying to make them invest in the Philippines, but we're also competing against other markets," she said.

ING, recently cited by the consumer magazine in Hong Kong as the best investment bank in the Philippines, is a formidable player in corporate finance.

For the past seven years, ING Philippines has been cited by the Fund Managers Association of the Philippines as the country's best fixed income house.

The ING group, which will celebrate its 20th year in the Philippines in October, is currently focusing on subsidiaries

(ING B3)

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■ **DOTC plans** to privatize LRT, MRT operations /B5

■ **BSP steps up** efforts to promote consolidation in banking sector /B7

ERC finally issues rules governing feed-in tariff system

By Abigail L. Ho

ALMOST TWO years after the signing of Republic Act 9513, or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, the Energy Regulatory Commission has finally issued the rules governing the law's feed-in tariff system.

Under the feed-in tariff system, renewable energy developers are assured of future cash flows, as electricity end-users will be charged fixed amounts to cover the production of energy from renewable sources.

With this in place, utilities can spread the cost of clean power among its customers.

The rules are expected to provide an incentive for investors to go into renewable energy development and construction. The mechanism also ensures stable pricing for energy from renewable sources.

Under the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Rules, which the ERC issued last Friday, transmission operator National Grid Corp. of the Philippines and distribution utilities with RE plants embedded in their systems should connect and take in energy generated and delivered by RE plants.

Whenever some RE capacity are injected into the systems of NGCP or distribution utilities, this will be allocated and dis-

(ERC B2)

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AN ARTIST'S perspective of the new Globe HQ

Globe putting up HQ in Global City

GLOBE TELECOM began construction of its new corporate headquarters in the Bonifacio Global City district with a simple ceremonial kick-off led by Ayala Corp. president and COO Fernando Zobel de Ayala and Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu.

The new Globe HQ, to rise at the corner of 32nd and 7th Avenues in the Bonifacio Global City, stands on a 3,894-square-meter lot and will have 27 floors with floor area of more than 78,000 square meters. Designed with an innovative mix of traditional and modern aesthetics, the new head office will also house the Customer Village which will showcase the latest offers, innovations and milestones from Globe.

The building is scheduled for completion in 2013.

"Employee morale and productivity is directly impacted by the physical workplace. We made it a point to have the design team consult employees on what would make their office a great environment to work in. This building is also a testament to Globe going green—our commitment to environmental sustainability. We are customers, it is a symbol of the customer-friendly and customer-driven focus that Globe has been integrating into its operations," said Cu.

Globe has partnered with affiliate Ayala Land, Arthur Gregorio of Design, Armeen A. Aji, Derek Langdon & Stulz, Che Mendoza & Group, and Ed Campbell & Associates for the project.

Malaysia's Axis to explore REIT prospects in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

MALAYSIAN REAL estate investment trust (REIT) manager Axis REIT Managers Berhad is scouting for investment opportunities in the Philippines, which recently opened up its capital market to this listed debt instrument.

Axis chief executive officer Stewart Labbrey is arriving in Manila to speak at the REIT Asia Pacific Philippines Summit 2010 to be held on July 27 to 28, the Malaysian company announced in a statement.

REIT is an instrument which allows investors to invest in diversified real estate developments such as residential, office, hotels and shopping malls or even in infrastructure projects such as toll roads and power plants.

In the Philippines, the REIT law requires the distribution of 90 percent of a particular project's income yearly to REIT holders. This means investors can look forward to earning from dividends declared on top of potential stock price appreciation.

"The Asian REIT market has made a dramatic recovery to their pre-crisis levels, outperforming both the equity markets and their peers in the West," Labbrey said in a statement ahead of his visit.

"The conservative leverage levels had led to a renewed interest in the sector in the light of the very highly volatile global markets which were feeling a difficult to shake off the effects of the global financial crisis," he said.

Labbrey said Axis had ventured over the past year into a huge successful IPO listing in Singapore and two in Malaysia with total asset value of $2.15 billion. He said the two Malaysian REITs had injected much needed liquidity in the Malaysian REIT market and effectively doubled the size of assets listed to more than $3 billion.

"With REIT regulations now in place and the high quality assets available in the Philippines, we sincerely hope that we will witness a further extension of the recovery story of listed (from) REITs," said Labbrey.

The Real Estate Investment Trust Act was signed into law as the fourth landmark legislative reform proposed by the PSE to boost the local capital market. The Securities and Exchange Commission recently issued the implementing rules and guidelines on the REIT while the Philippine Stock Exchange has also drawn up the listing guidelines.

Sterling Bank launches new banking platform

STERLING BANK of Asia has rolled out a new mobile banking platform to allow customers a convenient and secure access to their bank accounts using their mobile phones.

The new service, undertaken in partnership with Banteel, allows clearing, Bank's BlueMoney prepaid card, debit card holders to do common non-cash transactions such as balance inquiry, fund transfer, bills payment and even reload phone loading via SMS (short messaging service).

The facility is available to all Globe, Smart and Sun subscribers.

Bank first vice president Wenceslao "Lo Chico" Lo Jr. (executive chairman had evolved with the improvements in technology. "Mobile banking is emerging as a key service for customers who expect their bank to be available to them anytime, anywhere," he said.

To avail of the service, a client needs to sign up for the mobile banking facility by accessing Banteel Online via the Sterling Bank website www.sterlingbankasia.com. After accomplishing and electronically submitting the online form, a new page will appear containing the MPIN number that will be used to every mobile transactions.

"Mobile banking reinforces Sterling Bank's strategic approach of introducing innovative and convenient solutions for all our customers," Lo Chico said. "We are really our way of making our services constantly in sync with the needs of our customers," Doris C. Dumlao

ERC finally issues . . .

From page B4

tributed to bank customers.

This will ensure RE plant operators that they have priority connection to the grid, as well as priority purchase and transmission of their plants' output.

Reynaud for the use of clean energy will come from a uniform, per kilowatt-hour charge, dubbed Feed-in Tariff Allowance (FITAL), which will be collected from all electricity end-users.

These collections will go to an NGCP-administered fund from which payments to RE developers will be taken.

"After the FIT quotas embodied in the ERC's FIT Rules ... we anticipate that renewable energy projects will become more bankable, as these projects' future cash flows are not only made vastly deterministic, but also are fixed and secured," ERC executive director Francis Saturnino Juan said. "With the FITs, we hope to remove another barrier to the entry and development of renewable energy in the Philippines without burdening electricity consumers."

Stocks . . .

From page B1

Last week, the main-share Philippine stock Exchange index pulled back by 0.77 percent to 5,114.33 after posting multi-year highs in previous week).

Still, investors encouraged last week after US Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke issued a cautious economic outlook. But on Friday, investor sentiment on Wall Street was lifted by upbeat economic news.

"Monday will be up because US markets are up and if America continues to go up, the local market will follow," said Joseph Nolan of Eagle Equities.

Doris C. Dumlao

Metrobank's new faith

UNDER SEORSE TY, Metrobank group has stayed out of the mergers and acquisitions scene over the last few years, although it has gained a foothold in power generation long before everyone scrambled to get into this sector. After cleaning up its balance sheet and boosting profitability in recent years, however, Metrobank is apparently back on the M&A prowl.

But Metrobank wants to try something new, something that no other private-commercial bank in the country has done before: it is now throwing the possibility of going into Islamic banking, a type of banking that shuns charging or accepting interest payments for the use of money. Instead, Islamic banking finds other ways of helping clients, like ordering into partnerships and profit sharing.

In the Philippines, there's only one bank that has a Congressional franchise to engage in Islamic banking. This is the Al-Amanah Bank which, in recent years, was taken over by state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines with the intention of rehabilitating the bank, and eventually selling it to strategic investors. So if and when the new administration decides to privatize Al-Amanah, expect Metrobank to be in the queue.

Doris C. Dumlao

More bank regulatory blues

REMEMBER the huge stairwell bank that's been having a rough time getting regulatory approval for its banking license?

Last week, we floated the possibility that one particular regulator has been blocking this bank's every move—pestering on every score that comes before the agency she's part of—because of a bad turn her son has with this very same bank (a potential conflict of interest in itself).

Well, now comes a piece of information that could present a larger conflict of interest. According to our sources, this bank made the mistake in the past of extending a loan to a lady whose husband is here a "special-mission ship" with the female bank regulator's husband.

So now this bank regulator has two very compelling reasons to make herself a royal pain in the neck of this bank: somethrowing in extremely wealthy source [read: Forbes-list level wealth].

Truly, hell hath no fury like a bank regulator crossed [whether you do it on purpose or not, apparently].

Dinky L. Lazo

Sons and stock trading

TUE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is set to shift to a more trading-intensive setting, coinciding with President Aquino's first State of the Nation address. But as of the final rehearsals last Saturday, some brokers are still unhappy with the new system, for instance, some say the ticker is too slow and that the customers don't print out promptly.

But everyone hopes that today's inaugural trading under the new system won't have too many glitches so as not to avoid end up jeopardizing trading turnover ahead of the hosts. Of course, this whole saga reminds us of the nearly disastrous electoral exercise with the PCOS voting machines, which eventually turned out fine.

Doris C. Dumlao

Telecoms go into TV network war?

FOR A couple of weeks, recently Smart Communications Inc. bought valuable advertising minutes from ABS-CBN and GMA-7 and full page ads in broadsheets (including the heavens) to showcase its "3G" promotions.

The country's largest mobile phone network did not say much in the issues ads, but it was enough to prompt the two rival broadcasts to run to their advertising heads and advertising agencies to figure out just what Smart was up to.

Now they know and they have reason to be seriously concerned.

As Smart revealed in billion-up ads over the weekend, TXT services for both Sidney "Sid" Pontes, which will run from July 11 to Oct. 31. In

Biz Buzz
By the staff

Going, going ... never mind

TALK about red tape. Something about government procedure is threatening to make a looming sugar shortage actually worse. take the solution meant to prevent it.

See here: The Philippines imported 150,000 tons of sugar in the first half to keep

BUSINESS WORLD

a standoff, it will encourage distant subscribers to watch prime time programs on the "Kapamilya" network (TV). for those of you who've been out of the loop) for a chance to win as much as P1 million.

Given Smart's subscriber base of 45 million, it is highly likely that a lot of those would tune in to TV5 rather than watch ABS-CBN and GMA shows.

But perhaps the biggest source of pain for the bigger networks will be the certainty that Smart will no longer buy as much airtime from them now that TV5 is around.

Clearly, blood is thicker than water, even in business.

Tina Arceo-Dumlao

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RP moves to become Asean's clean energy leader

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINES is pushing to become the cleanest and greenest energy hub of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by harmonizing its energy standards and ensuring the effective implementation of related laws.

"We have long realized that the energy sector may act as the prime mover of change by bringing to bear the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The 2009-2030 Philippine Energy Plan embodies the strategy of making the Philippines the leader in green, clean and efficient energy," Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said in a speech presented at the Asean Ministers on Energy Meeting in Vietnam.

"The real challenge essentially lies in performing beyond our own expectations. Meeting the country's two milestone legislations with the annual assessment and progress of their implementation addresses any precedent of doubts abounding their effectiveness. Given that they are not perfect laws, but the results speak for themselves," he added.

He said the Department of Energy had formed a technical working group to review and harmonize the Philippine Energy Plan with the Renewable Energy Policy Framework. The meetings of the two would result in the birth of the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP).

The NREP he said, would provide policy directions "to support market integration into grid expansions, define renewable energy standards and quality control, and provide rules and guidelines for the simultaneous incorporation of the Renewable Energy Law" to expand renewable energy based capacity.

For biofuels, he said the country aimed to increase bioethanol blend in gasoline to 20 percent by 2020 and biodiesel blend also to 20 percent by 2020.

Republic Act 9367, or the Biofuels Act of 2006, required all diesel-fed oil refuelers to use a minimum 1-percent biodiesel blend within three months of the effectivity of the law, or starting May 2007. The mandated blend rose to 2 percent in February last year.

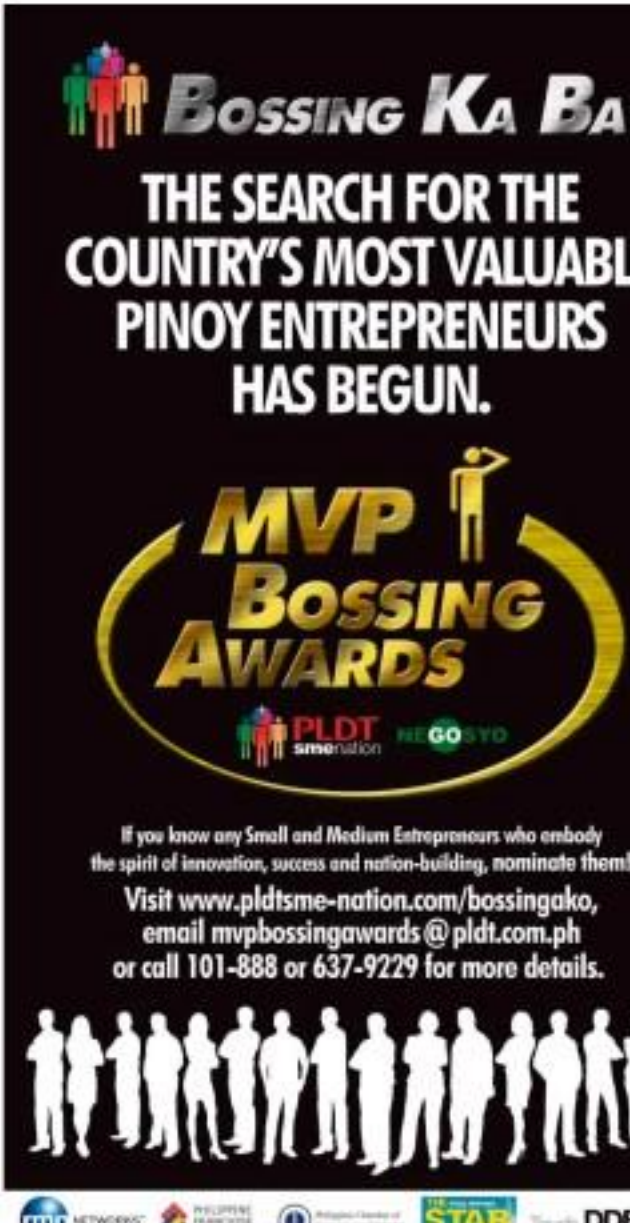
Also in February last year, the mandate for gasoline to have at least a 5-percent ethanol blend, by total volume, also took effect. The mandated blend would rise to at least 10 percent after four years or by 2011.

As this year, Almendras said local biodiesel production had already reached 64.08 million liters, enough to cover the domestic blend requirements.

Ethanol supply, however, was problematic, he said.

Despite the recent inauguration of the P1.9-billion San Carlos Bioenergy Inc. ethanol manufacturing facility, local ethanol supply was far from enough.

"It is an unfortunate reality on our part that the bioethanol industry is not moving enough to timely respond with the requirements of the energy market. The Philippines is, therefore, planning to adopt a temporary scheme of bioethanol importation until the domestic supply becomes stable," he said.



Biz Buzz

Please page B3

supplies and prices stable, and is preparing for smaller importations of the same volume. Sweet? More like the opposite, actually.

The tax subsidy needed to keep the importation tariff-free and thus affordable has not been signed since late May or early June, when the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) started seeking a tax subsidy for the raw imports through the National Food Authority. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Finance.

A government turnover and nearly two months later, there's still no one actually buying subsidy, so tariff-free tender. Like 39 percent tariff on sugar would make imports expensive and could drive food prices even higher than P52 per kilo).

Sources assured that with "flat sugar stocks right, the Philippines will have to get sugar from Brazil. And there's a long line of ships coming at Brazil's ports right now until 45 to 60 days of sea transport to consider.

If sugar is not imported soon, the Philippines could experience a double whammy: high sugar prices amid tight supply in January, but traders look willing hoping and a price rendered traders relieve for late arriving, cheap imports coming with local sugar this Nov's consumers, bad for farmers. Rina T. Oh-hendro

Coffee war rages on

THE DISPUTE over the ownership of the Figaro trademarks in the Iloilo area, especially now that legal eagle Lorna Kapunan has joined the fray representing the group of Ser Wee Figaro CEO Paulie E. Juan.

The website of the Intellectual Property Office shows that the trademarks of local coffee chain Figaro are in the name of Ser Cafe Figaro Enterprise Inc. owned by the Juan group.

But the rival group in Figaro Coffee Systems Inc. has questioned the ownership on grounds that the trademarks rightfully belong to the company that actually operates the chain.

FCSI has filed petitions for cancellation of the registration of the Figaro trademarks to the owner of the ECCBI. Four of the petitions have been denied and appealed by FCSI, while seven are still pending with the Bureau of Legal Affairs of the IPO, and Kapunan can be expected to do everything in her power to secure the rulings in favor of Juan's group.

While the trademarks issue remains unresolved, Stephanie T. Escudero, the chief legal officer of Ser Cafe Figaro Enterprise Inc. and Figaro franchisee since 2000, wants out of her contract.

Escudero says that as a concerned franchisee, she wants the public to be informed that there is indeed a dispute over the ownership of the Figaro trademarks. Tina Arceo-Dumlao

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BUSINESS

DOTC to privatize LRT, MRT operations

Fares to be kept low; new revenue sources to be developed

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT may opt to hire private companies to operate and maintain Metro Manila's three train lines to make them more efficient and help alleviate pressure on the state's finances.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) said this was in line with its strategy of encouraging the private sector to participate more in the development and improvement of the Light Rail Transit (LRT 1 and 2) and Metro Rail Transit (MRT) lines.

"We're looking at ways to get the private sector involved in the LRT and MRT," Undersecretary for rail transport Glicerio Sicat said in a recent interview.

"We may get commonwealth to do the operations and maintenance of the train lines, but we'll continue to own the facilities," Sicat said.

The LRT lines 1 and 2 is currently run and heavily subsidized by the government.

Line 1, which carries half a million people every day, runs from Baclaran, Pasay City to Roosevelt, Quezon City. The newer line 2, taken by 250,000 people a day, stretches from Recto, Manila City to Santolan, Marikina.

The MRT train line, which runs along Edsa from Taft Avenue, Pasay City to North Avenue, Quezon City, is operated by a local private consortium led by the Ayala-Ayala family. The operation of the train line, which carries close to half a million passengers every day is also heavily subsidized by the state.

The government, however, plans to take over the MRT operations to it can stop paying the build-operate-transfer fees to the consortium.

Sicat said there were no estimates yet on how much the government could possibly earn by privatizing the train operations.

Along with the privatization of the train lines' operations and maintenance, Sicat said the DOTC would also prioritize the increase in the MRT's capacity.

Earlier estimates show that the government may have to spend more than $280 million for the acquisition of additional trains to double MRT's current fleet of 73 trains.

The DOTC, Sicat said, would also look for ways to ensure that ticket prices are kept low. "We're looking for other ways of earning money," he said.

The train also earns revenue rents, he said, would be the concession stands that rent out spaces at the train stations. The government also wants to take to advertising related revenues from billboards to be put up along the train lines.

"We hope that those revenues can be enough to subsidize operations and keep us from having to hike fares," Sicat said.

Among the other improvements are the drawing board for the LRT is the southward extension of Line 1 to reach Bacoor City in Cavite. A link between line 1 and MRT is also expected to be completed this year.

The government also said it wanted to make the LRT line 2 longer on both ends to extend it to the Masinag Junction in Antipolo to the east, and to the Divisoria shopping area in Manila to the west.

Benguet gives up interest in Kingking

MANDAUE CITY) Benguet Corp. has agreed to turn over its interest in Compostela Valley copper and gold mining project, Kingking, to North American mining firm Bercell Mining & Minerals Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Friday, Benguet said it had signed documents setting out the terms for its withdrawal from the Kingking project, subject to due diligence and many conditions precedent.

This also involves the transfer of its interests in the project to Bercell's unit St. Augustine Mining Ltd.

The signing of the "heads of terms," the disclosure said, would not affect the status of the approved Mineral Production Sharing Agreement in respect of the Kingking project in Pantukan, Compostela Valley in Northern Mindanao.

Benguet was earlier ordered by the government to cede its rights on Kingking to Nickel-wide Development Corp. (Nadecor), a former partner of Benguet which was also claiming rights to the mining project.

Russell Mining is the prospective white knight backed by Nadecor.

Kingking is one of the priority mining projects of the government. —Doris C. Dumlao

Tan property arm embarks on compact condo project

By Doris C. Dumlao

TYCOON LUCIO Tan-led Fren Properties Philippines Inc. has rolled out a new high-rise property business that offers affordable compact residential units specially designed for students and starting families.

The new business, to be administered by new Fren subsidiary First Homes Inc., offers fully furnished condominium units with innovative space planning. It fits a two-bedroom residential unit in an 18-square-meter space and three bedrooms in a 28-sq.-m. space, Fren president Estelle Ignacio said in a briefing on Friday.

First Homes' maiden project is Aurora Heights Residences, a property development located five minutes away from the LRT (Light Railway Transit) Santolan station. There will be two towers offering 627 units each, priced at P1.5 million for the two-bedroom units and P2.2 million for the three-bedroom units.

Because the residential units are worth below P3.5 million, they are exempt from the value-added tax.

Fren requires buyers to put up a 25-percent downpayment while long-term financing can be offered by banks and the state-owned Pag-IBIG. Monthly amortization will be about P10,800.

Turnover of the first tower is slated for December 2013.

Ignacio said this development was ideal for students as it was near major schools such as Mapua College and Ateneo de Manila University.

If successful, Ignacio said Fren would replicate this project in Makati, near the growing university belt in Buendia, as well as in Taft Ave., Manila.

The new brand aims to address the inner housing needs of Filipinos in strategic areas on the periphery of major central business districts. It caters to the broader lower affordable market segment.

Because of the limited space, Fren is selling the units along with custom-built furnishing.

Each unit comes with beds and built-in bedroom closets, sofa set, kitchen storage cabinets, cooking stoves, dining set and curtains.

The project features a large clubhouse with receiving areas for guests, an adult and kiddie pool, landscaped gardens and a set of retail outlets at the ground floor.

In the meantime, Ignacio also reported that Fren's year-to-date reservation sales had already reached the total level in 2009, indicating the robust growth of the property market.

The bulk of the sales came from the selling projects such as Fren Tower Makati, Fren City, North Bella Commonwealth, 88 Roces and 8 Adriatico.

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BUSINESS *Monday*

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

President Aquino's anti-corruption agenda

PNOY'S MAIN campaign message was "No corruption, no poverty", and his promise was "I will bring honest government".

How can P-Noy reverse the culture of corruption that has been one of the main themes of the Arroyo administration?

Corruption has become so pervasive and expensive that we sometimes long for the good old "10 percenters" of the Marcos era. Perhaps that is why the Marcoses have had television success.

The culture of corruption is not just in the government sector.

A foreign friend of mine who sells medical equipment once asked me what was wrong with the Philippines.

I asked why? He said that the doctors in hospitals where he was selling medical equipment had asked for a 5% percent commission! No wonder that the cost of medical care keeps on rising, becoming unbearable for rich and poor alike.

What is sad is that these doctors are not underpaid government officials and employees.

Government is, however, still more corrupt. My friend was also willing to a municipal hospital. He said the mayor had called him to complain about his proposal. My friend said, "But Mayor, I already gave you my best price." The mayor said, "double it!"

Bringing honesty back to the Philippines will be a tough job for President Aquino. What should he do?

There are four steps that the President should have:

1. Bring closure to some outstanding anomalous cases.
2. Identify other major anomalous projects.
3. Prevent future anomalies.
4. Discourage corruption and dishonesty.

Closure on outstanding anomalies

There are many unresolved anomalies, which the Arroyo administration has protected.

MAPPING THE FUTURE
Manuel A. Alcalaj Jr

In 2004, the Supreme Court stopped the Mega Pacific Consortium automatic contract and recommended that charges be filed.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said there was insufficient evidence.

There are many others, like the fertilizer scam, MRT-3 TR, Hello Garci, etc.

To be able to successfully prosecute these cases, it may be necessary to first impeach the Ombudsman.

Investigation of other anomalies

There are a number of giant government procurements that look anomalous.

One case is the Comelec Smartmatic Automated Election System. A serious investigation will show that there was bias in favor of Smartmatic in the bid evaluation, contract terms, and failure to properly test the PCOS machines.

The continued importation of rice should likewise be investigated.

The P500-million Benguet Geographic Information System (GIS) project and the P50-million Benguet GIS project should likewise be looked into.

I am not familiar with public works projects; however, I feel that investigation will uncover numerous cases.

Amendment of the Procurement Reform Law

While it has been said that we have many good laws, what we need is better implementation.

There is one big exception, the RA 9184 or the Procurement Reform Law. Many of the anomalous projects we have mentioned were made possible by taking advantage of many weaknesses of the law.

The law has the following weaknesses:

1. Section 32 provides for pass or fail criteria and the selection of the lowest qualified bidder (looks good!)

2. But Section 26 provides for bids under a single qualified bidder to push through.

Corrupt bidders and officials take advantage of these provisions to favor a bidder not necessarily with the lowest bid but one with the highest bribe.

Section 35 provides for weighted scoring in the choice of consultants. However, the process does not provide for a comparison of all the bidders.

All bidders are rated but the law does not allow the opening of all the financial bids. The technical bids are rated and ranked. The qualifications of the bidders are checked for qualifications.

The financial bid of the qualified bidders with highest rating is opened first. If the bid is within the budget, the bid is awarded.

Unfortunately, there could have been much more cost-effective bids, which were not considered. This is a law approximately five governments.

Prevention of future graft

An administration with the political will to investigate and prosecute anomalous government procurement will discourage future anomalous bids.

Bidders and government officials will not risk being caught.

Government will get better value and be able to provide better infrastructure, health care and education at lower cost.

Businesses will have new and possibly increased employment. Poverty will be dramatically reduced.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is President of Gateway Business Consult, Inc. and member of the AIM National Issues Committee. Feedback at mpa@philonline.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit <http://mpa.org.ph>.)

Going for more productivity with a mobile phone

ACCESSING THE Internet, e-mail or just sending personal text messages (SMS) through a mobile phone has become more than just a fad. These days, more and more people rely on a mobile device to enhance their productivity, either for school work, office or business needs.

"Our research reveals that 60 percent of people want e-mail and IM on their mobile phones. They're consistently the two most asked-for data services," says Montreal Marcelo, Service Manager of Nokia Philippines.

"For those who already have one or more e-mail accounts, the demand for a reliable version is overwhelming," he adds.

Entrepreneurs, for example, often wear their own hats: artists, and at the same time need to devote time to community programs and family areas to the added value of mobile connectivity.

Not only do they benefit from the convenience of receiving e-mail through their handheld phones, they also are able to reply immediately when necessary.

IM allows increased mobile phone users to use. Shoot work-related problems.

For people on fieldwork managing projects, this means coordinating work with other co-workers in other places, while at the same time still having the capability to negotiate clients in their offices of progress being made.

By empowering employees with real-time connectivity through mobile phones, companies have experienced increased productivity.

This is why the race to connect mobile users to a digital revolution has still allow them to stay connected via the Internet is one of Nokia's visions.

According to Montreal, Nokia's goal is to connect the unconnected and provide people with a way to easily and affordably create their own online identity without needing to touch a personal computer.

The world's biggest mobile manufacturer also wants to bring easy-to-use mobile access to 10 percent of the world's population that have e-mail or IM.

"Our plan is to enable users, using across the globe, to bring the Internet and its applications to every one ... whether they have a PC or not," Montreal says.

Most new phones out in the market now allow e-mail and IM access that can easily be set up directly on the device. All you need to know is your e-mail address (or portal ID) and password.

These phones have the intelligence to automatically configure Web connectivity, therefore giving users an easy time to start sending and receiving e-mail and IMs.

With Nokia Messaging's push e-mail service, a user can receive up to 10 personal e-mail accounts from a single application on his mobile device. Whether it's Yahoo! Mail, Hotmail, Gmail, Online or one that's provided by an independent Internet service, an e-mail account can easily be set up on the Nokia device.

With Nokia Messaging's Chat service, a user can access the popular IM communities—Yahoo! Messenger, Google Talk, Windows Live Messenger and Oni Chat.

For people working in companies, there are a number of ways to communicate with the firm's server. Mail for Exchange utilizes the Microsoft Exchange ActiveSync protocol, thus enabling wireless synchronization of Microsoft Exchange e-mail, calendar and contact data, as well as providing access to the global company directory.

Mail for Exchange also ensures data security through its encrypted HTTPS connection that is established and maintained between the device and the server. Direct access to the Microsoft Exchange server ensures that synchronization is delivered faster due to enhanced data compression, leading to a quicker experience when sending and receiving messages.

Work sets and better mobile devices suited for Internet applications, Marcelo says that four billion people in the world who still do not have any Internet experience will appreciate the power of the Web not through personal computers but from their handheld mobile phones. "When this happens, the number of Internet users who will be chatting and sending and receiving e-mail from a mobile phone will dwarf those who are messaging via their desktop computers, PCs or Internet tablets," Marcelo adds.

David leaves behind 'renewed' DBP

REYNALDO G. David

By Desiree L. Lavar

THE MAN who succeeded him called Reynaldo G. David "the best president the Development Bank of the Philippines has ever had."

And by all accounts, the words spoken by DBP's chief operating officer Edgardo Garcia—capped in style as officer-in-charge presiding Malacañang's adjournment of a permanent president—have weight of his experience to back them up.

Garcia, who started at DBP in 1989, saw and experienced what the bank was like in the years immediately following the third government financial institution had received its restored financial history.

David, he said, transformed the moneyowned bank into an institution that could match skills and resources and stand toe to toe with the largest financial institutions in the country and around the region.

This kind of self-assertion is not usual when there is a changing of the guard in a government financial institution (GFI), especially changeovers that coincide with changes in administrations.

All too often, new presidents come in to find caliber of GFIs like the ORO Land Bank of the Philippines, the Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System filled with people who have been there no people linked with the previous administration.

Apparently, the DBP under David has managed to avoid this trap that has plagued the bank and its peers during previous administrations.

"Being a government bank doesn't mean that you have to abandon professional standards in supporting the government's development agenda," David said in an interview a few days before he handed over the reins of DBP to Garcia.

"In fact, running a government bank means you have to be more careful with its assets and the decisions you make," he added, explaining that the care that any institution was set up with public funds makes the weight of responsibility heavier than in a firm set up with the money of private shareholders.

Being a former official of Citibank N.A. and having worked under the late Rafael Buenaventura early in his banking career, David learned the value of having right credit standards—lessons he brought with him to DBP.

"You'd be surprised," he said. "The more ings I pay the more attention to on the credit side, the more things. That's where I ask the most questions. That's when I can be really difficult."

Privately, DBP officials confess to dreading credit committee meetings with David as he is prone to disapproving loan proposals when they come up short of his rigid criteria.

His list were disappointed. Palace-backed loan proposals?

"Yes, I have," David said. "Some of them, we had to send back to the proponents because they failed our standard."

Today, five years after David took the helm of DBP, the bank is firmly entrenched in the list of top 10 banks in the country in terms of assets.

Despite this, there are many whispered stories about David and his association with the Arroyo administration.

In particular, he has been linked to a clique of friends close to the former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo—a fact he does not hide.

"Yes, PGJ is my friend," he said. "We used to play golf occasionally before he underwent an operation."

Despite that, David said DBP has never had [illegible] loans lobbied upon it by the controversial former First Gentleman or by the Palace itself.

David also conceded that, in his younger days as a banker, he had close ties with banking regulators, with no less than the then Central Bank of the Philippines citing him for questionable trading practices.

"I was a [bank] trader, and trading requires aggressive moves sometimes," he said, adding that the valuable experience helped him become a better banker in later years.

"There were times in [when] I took a bank when the owner asked me to do something illegal," David said. "I resigned right then and there."

Being an engineer is controversy, it seems likely that David may be asked to explain his decisions as CEO of DBP under former supposedly Arroyo administration.

In particular, bankers are startling about questions the Aquino administration may have about DBP's decision to buy back $340 million worth of bonds issued by the Metro Rail Transit Corp. consortium on the order the Department of Finance.

"Did not disclosing any shares board, the management of these sales and [the] records are there for everyone to see," he said.

Notwithstanding questions about DBP's policy moves in recent years, it has become clear that the bank has managed to shake off the stigma normally associated with GFIs, that they are merely milking cows for strong administrations.

"DBP today is stronger financially, [with] a high asset to its rubber has become comparable to those found in the best private banks," he said.

Speaking before a standing room only crowd at the bank's auditorium two weeks ago, David was a picture of composure amid emotional tributes by DBP officials and staffers.

"Unlike others who often regret having joined government service, I am proud to have joined government," he said. "I am proud of what we have achieved here."

GOINGS-ON

Soap making seminar set

The Golden Treasure Daily Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on soap-making at the PTTC, Km. 8 and 8, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Roxas Blvd., Manila, on Sat. Oct. Proof Aug. 1, Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participants will learn different kinds of soap, household and body care products through hands-on activities. Topics to be covered include the making of liquid dishwashing soap, liquid hand soap, liquid all-purpose soap, bar detergent soap, powder soap, dishwashing paste soap, herbal soap, glycerin (transparent bath soaps), liquid bleach, fabric softener, shampoo, conditioner, glass cleaner, carpet shampoo, air freshener, car shampoo and shoe black.

Bonus courses include how to make hand sanitizer, body scrub, foot spa soap, foot spray, food powder, hair shampoo and hand and body lotion.

For questions, call 8 C3-65-51, (21-16-71; 426-15-26 and 403-76-01 or log on to www.Golden TreasureSeller.com

Traders Hotel goes to HK

ATTENTION, business travelers.

The Traders Hotel brand will make its debut in Hong Kong on Aug. 1, with the former general manager of Traders Hotel, Manila taking the reins, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts has announced.

"I am delighted to be part of the launch of Traders in Hong Kong," said newly appointed general manager Andrea Maldonado. "Having been with the brand for many years, it is exciting to provide a new alternative of stylish comfort and convenience for the modern day road warrior in Hong Kong."

Maldonado said Traders Hotel, Hong Kong would be "an easy choice for business travelers who appreciate a convenient location and efficient service, or leisure visitors who like a relaxed, contemporary atmosphere."

Offering special introductory packages starting on Aug. 1, Traders Hotel, Hong Kong is centrally located on Queen's Road in the Western District, the heart of buzzing cultural life, traditional shops, temples and local eateries.

Previously operating as Hotel Jen and completely renovated in 2008, Traders Hotel, Hong Kong has 280 guest rooms and suites designed in a contemporary, minimalistic style to maximize the use of space.

For information and reservations, e-mail reservation.thhk@shangri-la.com, call (852) 2913 6000 or visit www.tradershotels.com.

BSP steps up efforts to promote consolidation in banking sector

Prospective buyers can tap funds from central bank, PDIC

By Michelle V. Ramos

REGULATORS will hold nationwide road shows in August for a program that will promote mergers and acquisitions among members of the banking industry, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

The BSP maintains that the country's banking industry would be better off with fewer but stronger players.

Under the Strengthening Program for Rural Banks (SPRB), the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) and the BSP will lend money to banks willing to acquire a troubled rural banks.

Initially, the program is focused on encouraging larger banks to acquire rural banks. Eventually, however, cooperatives said they might consider expanding it to cover the acquisitions of troubled thrift and universal banks, especially if the initial stage would be successful.

The BSP and the PDIC have agreed to allocate a combined P5 billion, or P2.5 billion each, to fund the program.

After the approval of the SPRB draft by the central bank and PDIC, the next step is the marketing of the program. Road shows will be done in August, when owners of banks may already start applying for the funds," BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said over the weekend.

Officials from PDIC and the central bank are expected to conduct the road shows. They will be canvassing to prospective investors the mechanisms by which they can boost the capital of rural banks.

Espenilla said there were already some banks that had expressed interest in tapping the loans to fund potential acquisitions.

SPRB is one of the key initiatives of banking regulators to encourage consolidation in the country's banking sector.

Rural banks were made the principal focus of the program as its capital (years of implementation, as there have usually been a considerable number of closures involving them.

Regulators said acquisitions were better than closures since the latter was costly for the government as it would require payment of deposit insurance claims.

Since June last year, according to PDIC, 27 rural banks had been closed and placed under receivership. As deposit insurer, PDIC is tasked to pay deposit claims by clients of the banks that were shut down.

There are on top of the 11 rural banks owned by the Legaspi Group that were declared closed by the central bank from December 2009 to early 2009 because of their alleged engagement in fraudulent banking activities.

The BSP said the country's overall banking sector was quite strong, profitable and liquid.

Central bank officials said there was room for consolidation in the banking sector. The industry can accommodate more mergers and acquisitions and still maintain a highly competitive market.

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Quezon City is one of the most highly developed cities in Manila where major corporate, government, residential, commercial, entertainment and recreational hubs are located. Named after former President Manuel L. Quezon, this former capital of the Philippines is an ultimate metropolitan haven. All those who long to be in the middle of everything, an active cosmopolitan setting yet not too close to the bustling Manila. In E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue in Quezon City alone lie some of the best institutions and establishments in Metro Manila. So convenient to be a convenient address in the metropolis.

The Capital Towers, the latest project from ad venture prestigiously is a joint-venture project between Federal Land and Metrobank, two big names under the Metrobank Group. Strategically located along E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue in Quezon City, it offers the advantage of proximity to the city's premier districts among other significant highlights it affords. This first-class residential development is within reach from business, education, trade, entertainment, and leisure areas. It is a few meters away from St. Luke's Medical Center, considered as one of the best healthcare facilities in the country, and National Children's Hospital. Schools such as University of Asia & the Pacific, St. Joseph's College of Quezon City, La Salle Greenhills, Ateneo de Manila University and UP Diliman, are just minutes away. Not to mention that it is also a short drive from centers of business – Ortigas Center, Cyberone Tower and Araneta Avenue. For the fitness buff, the Quezon City Sports Club is just a short walk away. Shopping centers and malls around the area include Waltermart, Fiesta Mall, Trinoma Mall, Shopping Center and Fitness Mall.

The premier residential community also provides accessibility to other major parts of Quezon City – Cubao as a gateway to other parts of the metropolis, also Tomas Morato and Timog known for its dining, beauty, shopping and entertainment hotspots. Major thoroughfares such as Aurora Boulevard and Aurora Boulevard are easily accessible. New Manila, home of the 'old rich' of Quezon City, is also near the project. From the two TV network giants, ABS-CBN and GMA, are just within the area.

From the success of the Athens tower, now comes the second tower that will also mark its presence in the Quezon City skyline. The first tower is being completed and ready for turnover to residents by the end of the year. Construction for Beijing tower, the second tower will soon start.

The development includes a full range of first-class amenities and facilities to match its residents' needs such as a swimming pool, jogging path/meditation area, gym/fitness center, function room and multi-purpose hall just to name a few. Whether for business, relaxation or simply for leisure, everything you'll need is at The Capital Towers.

Unit options for The Capital Towers Beijing tower are studio, 1-bedroom or 1-bedroom deluxe and 2-bedroom units, ideal for professionals and start-up families looking for a home in the city. For growing families, you may be interested to select a bigger unit space.

The modern design of the building was conceptualized by Singapore-based Chip & Ong Architects and Planners. Rodriguez-Sinibaldo and Partners that includes a parte cochere for convenient drop-offs, themed lobbies and stylish interiors, which add up to a prestigious lifestyle setting. Security is also a top priority with the project's well-planned safety measures and cutting-edge security system.

The Capital Towers is fast redefining the Quezon City landscape. The Athens and Beijing Towers not surely give prestige with luxury to consumers making their lifestyle at par with high-end residential developments. For more information about the development, pick a brochure at www.thecapitaltowers.com.ph or visit the showroom located along E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue in Quezon City, or please call 723-4153.

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BUSINESS

PNCC told to remit P4B in concession fees

Unpaid amount on top of share in toll collections

By Reuned W. Dennings

STATE-OWNED Philippine National Construction Corp. owes toll authorities some P4 billion in concession fees, which should be paid immediately, according to the Department of Finance.

The unpaid fees were supposed to have been paid by May 1, 2009—when PNCC's franchise to operate subways expired—but have remained unpaid as of Dec. 31, 2009.

Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the DOF had authorized the company to settle the amount with the Toll Regulatory Board immediately or "we will be constrained to take all legal remedies against PNCC and its officers, including administrative remedies that are available to us."

The finance chief added that the concession fee was on top of PNCC's share in toll collections from the North Luzon and South Luzon expressways, which she first had also been ordered to remit to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

PNCC built a 25-year franchise for Luzon's links to ensure it became a revenue priority of the legislature.

Purisima said that with no expired franchise, PNCC is in effect acting as an agent of the national government and should be remitting shares in toll revenues.

From originally being the sole operator, PNCC now holds minority stakes in the North Luzon Expressway and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx).

The SLEx covers two toll ways—South Luzon Tollway from Alabang to Muntinlupa City to Sta. Rosa in Batangas and the Metro Manila Skyway System that relieves the elevated and at-grade levels of the tollway that runs from Sucat to Taguig City to Alabang.

The government is keen on raising revenues from regular sources as well as non-recurring inflows in a bid to limit the budget deficit to P325 billion for the whole year.

Among the new means that the government is considering is the issuance of peso-denominated bonds meant for foreign investors, which the BTr aims to have within the year.

According to National Treasurer Roberto B. Tan, initial feedback from banks and investors show that buyers prefer "peso global bonds" (the overall moniker to refer to) that have five years from issuance.

BSP to require banks to raise capital by '11

By Michelle V. Rosero

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said the circular requiring universal and commercial banks to put up more capital to cover risk will be strictly implemented starting January 2011.

BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the time was right to finally implement Circular 639, which embodies rules on the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP).

It was supposed to have been implemented in January this year.

Espenilla said the BSP had not received any request from the banking sector for another deferral of the implementation of the circular.

"But even if there is a request, we [BSP] are not inclined to extend further," he said.

Under the ICAAP circular, banks will be required to provide sufficient capital—or other resources—to cover for unanticipated types of risks that go with bank operations.

These include reputation risk, strategic risk, interest rate risk, compliance risk, liquidity risk, and credit concentration risks.

Currently, banks are only required to provide capital cover for common types of risks, mainly credit risk, which is the risk of borrowers defaulting on their loans.

The circular states that banks must submit to the BSP a detailed report indicating all the risks it is exposed to, quantify those risks, determine the amount of capital they think is sufficient to cover for all these risks, and raise said capital.

Espenilla said the circular will encourage banks to exercise discipline and determine on their own what needs to be done to improve their financial health.

Stanchart, Smart forge platinum card deal

By Daniel L. Lucas

STANDARD CHARTERED Bank has partnered with Smart Infinity, the high-end mobile telecommunications brand of Smart Communications Inc., in a bid to share in clients from the fast-growing premium banking market.

In a statement, the local unit of the UK-based financial institution said the new partnership would take the form of a co-branded "Infinity Standard Chartered Card" which would be made available to high net worth clients of both firms.

With the service, Standard Chartered said that members would be entitled to priority banking services such as the use of a dedicated relationship manager, access to sophisticated wealth management products, preferential rates on foreign exchange and deposit placements, among others.

According to the bank, the Infinity Standard Chartered card falls under the "platinum" category of the MasterCard franchise.

Among the benefits of the card is a 5-percent cash rebate on all restaurant purchases worldwide. This rebate is available in the Philippines and abroad for all dining expenditures.

Another 5-percent cash rebate will further be applied to all Smart Infinity bills that are automatically charged to the credit card. This gives Smart subscribers cash rewards and the convenience of having their monthly bills settled automatically.

Pag-IBIG Fund

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY TWO (89,232) CONTAINERS OF PURIFIED DRINKING WATER INCLUDING PROVISION, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER DISPENSER/DRINKING FACILITIES FOR Y2011-2012

The **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (HDMF)**, through the **Bids and Awards Committee-Goods and Services (BAC-GS)**, intends to apply the sum of **Three Million Three Hundred Forty Six Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (PhP 3,346,200.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Eighty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Two (89,232) Containers of Purified Drinking Water including Provision, Installation and Maintenance of Water Dispenser/Drinking Facilities for Y2011-2012. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The HDMF BAC-GS now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of Eighty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Two (89,232) Containers of Purified Drinking Water including Provision, Installation and Maintenance of Water Dispenser/Drinking Facilities for Y2011-2012. Initial delivery of the goods shall be made within thirty (30) calendar days from the issuance of Notice to Proceed and subsequent weekly deliveries shall be every Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. and completed not later than 8:00 a.m. of Wednesday and the whole day of Saturday. Bidders should have completed, within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the HDMF BAC-GS Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City starting **July 26, 2010 (Monday)** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting on **July 26, 2010 (Monday)** from the HDMF BAC-GS Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (PhP 3,000.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash or manager's check payable to HDMF. The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The bidding documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.net and the website of the HDMF at www.pagibigfund.gov.ph, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.

The HDMF BAC-GS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **August 2, 2010 (Monday), 2:00 p.m.** at the Tuklasan Hall, Room 602, 6th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered on **August 11, 2010 (Tuesday)** at the HDMF BAC-GS Secretariat, Room 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City not later than 1:30 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on **August 11, 2010 (Tuesday), 2:00 p.m.**, at the Tuklasan Hall, Room 602, 6th Floor, The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC of the proposed project for bidding.

The HDMF BAC-GS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all/not at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Messrs. Wilfredo Kardo S. Reyes or Jose Maria M. Diaz at 911-0262/896-0810 or visit our Corporate Website.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE GOODS AND SERVICES
By:
(Sgd.) FLORENTINO E. ESPAÑA JR.
Senior Vice President
Administrative Services Sector and
Chair, BAC-GS

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

RAFAEL "BOY" J. DIZON, JR.

who peacefully joined our Creator on July 24, 2009

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Anne, *Sta. Ana, Taguig City*	6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00am; 5:00, 6:00 & 7:00pm
Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, *Tillamor, Pasay City*	6:30am; 12nd; 5:30pm
Santa Maria Bella Strada Parish, *Karipunan, Quezon City*	6:00am; 6:00pm
St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri, *Magallanes, Makati City*	6:30am; 12nn; 6:00pm
St. Anthony of Padua, *Singalong, Manila*	6:00am; 6:30pm
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish Church, *Loyola Heights, Quezon City*	6:30am; 6:30pm
Our Lady of Holy Rosary Parish, *Bonifacio, Taguig City*	6:00am; 6:30pm
St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, *Napindan, Taguig City*	6:00am
St. Michael Parish, *Signal, Taguig City*	6:00am; 6:30pm
Ingenio Familia Parish, *Bagumbayan, Taguig City*	6:00am
Sto. Niño Parish, *Signal Village, Taguig City*	6:00am

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
DIVISION OF MASBATE
Masbate

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Masbate, through the SHE'S 121 SEF-2010 (SH interventions) seeks the sum of Nine Million Five Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Forty Pesos (Php9,538,440.00) being the Approved Budgetary for the contract (ABC) to undertake the Purchase of Furniture and Fixtures (Package 1) and Purchase of Computer Units (Package 2) under the Supply and Delivery of Furniture and Fixtures for SY 2010 for 1,05 Local Schools Divisions. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Lot#	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
A	Furniture and Fixtures (all items) with Supplies, Tools and Chairs	Php 6,000,000.00
B	Furniture and Fixtures (all items) with Supplies, Tools and Chair	Php3,538,440.00

Purchase of Furniture and Fixtures (Package 1) and Purchase of Computer Units (Package 2) under the Supply and Delivery of Furniture and Fixtures for SY 2010 - Delivery of the items is within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the receipt of Notice to Proceed. Failure should items completed within the said time (3) days from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on July 26, 2010 to August 10, 2010 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00).

It is hereby disclosed that the name of the Project Consultant on August 4, 2010, 9:00 am, at the Division Office Conference Room, where anyone may inquire and/or witness the conduct of the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before August 17, 2010, 9:00 am. All bids must be accompanied by an irrevocable in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on August 17, 2010, 9:00 am at the Division Office Conference Room, where all bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Bids/Bid Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

MRS. VIRGINIA I. FORMAT
Head, BAC Secretariat
Chief D, Materials Division
Division Bldg., Masbate City
(056) 333-5555 local 116

Approved:
HERMINIO C. ORTILLANA
BAC Chairman

(BAC-sec) 8, 9/26

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OBITUARIES

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I have finished the race
I have kept the faith."
2 TI 4:7 12:8

Our dearly beloved Daddy

Col. Efren R. Zaide, PA (Ret.)

PMA Class 1955

Peacefully joined his Creator
on July 25, 2010 at the age of 80.

His loving wife Gloria
together with his children Maria Teresa
and Jose Gamaco, Maria Zenaida
and Albert Pajota, Cristina, Efren Jr. and Allana,
Edwin and Rosalina and his grandchildren
and other relatives and friends request the prima to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor,
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, 29 July 2010
at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Milagros D. Gochoco

Peacefully joined our Lord on
July 23, 2010 at the age of 64

She loving family and other
relatives request her passing and
wish her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at
Funeraria Paz in Manila Memorial
Park, Parañaque City

Interment will be on Saturday, July 31, 2010 after the
9:30 am mass at Funeraria Paz.

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Fashion for All Seasons

THE WEATHER HAS BEEN ITS MOST fickle and unpredictable mood this year. Some are the days when a clear, bright day heralds a perfect day for park meetings and play. Another morning downpour need not discourage the family for any outdoor activity. The weather forecast now seems to caution that "what you see may not be what you will get all day."

There are no more hard-and-fast rules now as far as weather is concerned. Nothing can be as unnerving to the fashionista who already wore a stylish outfit that matches the weather. When is a long jacket for a morning dress — poor? Once, but followed by a scorching afternoon? No! These days, every fashionista is learning to have a flexible wardrobe that they can match with the rancor the sun or a flash. Climate change indeed, has taken its toll even on fashion.

Thankfully, you believe that certain clothes inhabit all your friendly Pinoy shopping areas—the Tutuban Mall mall the for-weight to include two-piece and three-piece numbers in the perfect fabric of all for the crazy-weather-cotton-in their wardrobe? Among them are Silvanna Clothes Hand-In and Gail Lauzon at Centermall. Choose from a wide range of basic and chic tops, long-sleeved shirts and pants, floral and stripes, trendy cardigan and sweater-flats.

What they have are ultra-chic, fashionable and all-weather clothes that can be worn in any situation any time, any day. These mix-and-match ensembles help you look at your best whether you are basking under the golden sun or while singing and dancing in the rain. This is Pinoy fashion with quality control but without burning a hole in your pocket. That's because at Tutuban Mall, you get all these and more for it is a shopping destination that caters for the fashion sense of every kid and stylishly one. Pinoy.

Gov't to review P3.3-B 'rice-to-school' program

By Rainier W. Domingo

DBM adopts zero-based budget scheme to prioritize expenses

BUDGET SECRETARY Florencio B. Abad said Wednesday wants a redesign of the "rice-to-school" scheme to ensure that the P3.3-billion program is benefiting families of poor and subsistence individuals.

Abad said the move was among the recommendations of the Department of Budget and Management based on the findings of the zero-based budget (ZBB) process that President Benigno Aquino III had ordered.

He said the ZBB was part of efforts to better manage the national budget, which Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima described as having been "mismanaged" in the first semester under the previous team of economic managers.

With ZBB, budgets for an upcoming period are earmarked based on what is needed, regardless of whether the amount is higher or lower than for the previous period.

Abad said the ZBB process meant that programs that no longer deliver the intended outcomes be ended, while funding for some programs be reduced pending a redesign.

Also recommended are the expansion of certain programs "to eliminate or mitigate critical gaps," and pursuing difficult reforms with government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

Further, the DBM suggests the rightsizing of the size of the Social Security and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) workforce.

Abad explained that the rightsizing meant no backfilling them to budgets of the retired personnel.

When asked for examples, Abad the rice-to-school program was better off redesigned and be managed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development instead of the DBM.

"The DBM does not have the structure to distribute rice," Abad said. "It must also be ensured that the correct amount [that bilks] of rice is given out to the right families who are being targeted to avoid chances—and really those who are poor and needy."

As for GOCC reforms, Abad said one of the most urgent was to address the lack of investment in basic social and economic services, which should help drive sustained economic growth.

He said the increase was meant to address the lack of investment in basic social and economic services, which should help drive sustained economic growth.

From the Ivatans of Batanes to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi Unites the Filipino

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Asean urged to 'climate-proof' energy sector

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH THE world experiencing the ill-effects of climate change, the Philippines has urged its co-members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to "climate proof" the region's energy sector.

Speaking at the Asean Energy Business Forum 2010 in Cebu, Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said the need to "climate proof" the region's energy sector was now more pressing, given the visible impact of climate change on various aspects of energy production.

Some ways to "climate-proof" the sector, he said, included considering vulnerability assessments of energy systems—from power generation to transmission and distribution to fuel production and transport—as well as identifying risks in relation to climate outcomes and variability.

Asean member states should also invest in newer technology mode and options, with emphasis on energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy, nuclear energy, traditional coal and clean coal technology, and carbon capture and storage, he added.

There was also a need to develop and adopt sustainable financing mechanisms for the Asean energy sector, he said.

He explained that the energy sector was very vulnerable to the effects of climate change, citing as an example the Philippines' experience during the extended El Niño weather phenomenon.

Hindrance experienced daily reaches a power interruption to sometimes lasting 10-12 straight hours, due to severe lack of water to power the main grid's hydropower facilities, from which the bulk of the region's power is supplied.

Apart from hydropower generation, Almendras related that wind power generation was also highly affected by climate change.

"Wind power generation is more applicable to variations in ambient temperatures, humidity, and precipitation. The primary determinants of wind power availability are wind speed statistics, consisting of mean wind speeds and gustiness. Power outputs are subject to uncertainty on a wide range of time scales, and they may be affected by climate change," he explained.

To help respond to the effects of climate change, he said the country had adopted a holistic approach of combining mitigation with adaptation.

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INVESTMENT FUND	Net Annual Yield as of June 30, 2010	
	Participant Share	Participant Share
ALFM Peso Bond Fund	151.26	151.66
ALFM Dollar Bond Fund	108.91	164.14

URC, Unilab lock horns over Pure Foods

From page B1

owned by the Ayala group. San Miguel acquired Pure Foods in 2003, and consolidated its food operations with it to ensure its position as the country's largest food company.

URC/PFC is expected to consult widely with SEC of the food-types group, which is also involved in a wide range of food-related businesses, including the manufacture and distribution of consumer foods, production of bags and disposable shields, manufacture of animal and fish feeds, glucose and veterinary compounds, flour milling, and aqua feeding and refining.

For Unilab, the race to its first goals at the food business. Industry sources said that the pharmaceutical giant had been eyeing foods in the last few months to prepare for expansion once allied industries, which turned out to be its prospective acquisition of a stake in Pure Foods.

Unilab's bid for RFPC is widely believed to be independent of the ongoing feud between all its former chair and CEO Jaudelo Campos Jr., who now sits on the San Miguel board. Campos, who left the family's pharmaceutical business years ago, successfully built up his own food and confectionery business under the NutriMuda Group of Companies.

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PFC-AC Global Bond Fund	1.3997	1.3999
PFC-AC Peso Bond Income Fund	1.4964	1.4964
PFC-AC Peso Equity Fund	1.4297	1.4459
PFC-AC Balanced Fund	1.0873	1.0877
Principal Protect 1	0.9944	0.9944
Principal Protect 2	1.0041	1.0744
Principal Protect 3	0.9655	0.9655
Peakbond Yield Protect	1.1439	1.1554

NG: Investors take long hard look at RP

From page B1

banking and operates a robust asset management business.

In the past, it had interests in insurance, private banking and stock brokerage, but it had to give up those businesses as part of a global realignment of interests.

After 20 years, however, Ganzia said the group would evaluate new opportunities in the Philippines. Putting up a consumer business is just one of its options, she said.

But first we have to the Philippines is 1998 when it opened a representative office. It acquired an overseas banking unit a year after that. The banking liberalization of 1994 allowed it to become one of 10 foreign banks to set up wholly owned branches in the country.

Garcia, a certified public accountant before becoming a banker, is the first female CEO of ING in the Philippines. Doris C. Bautista

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For inquiries, please contact the DCF Program Secretariat at 926-4925
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Wish list for President Aquino

From page B1

will not go to privatizing and other illegal transactions, gambling and wasteful expenditures.

The aggregate amount of money lost to the pilferaging and other illegal investment schemes of over P100 billion is even bigger than the P80-billion annual fiscal deficit.

Finally, the DoF and BSP should be directed by the President to study how the government can harness the use of the institutions to pursue the country's economic programs.

The GFIMC committee can be accommodated by any executive order and within the regulatory framework, unlock the mobilization of longer dated investments in critical infrastructure programs of the government and the private sector.

It is also high time that he appoint a Secretary of Agriculture who will not just implore the whole nation to hope and pray that there will be room sales to feed our agricultural lands become, if that is the case, we might just designate a prelate to head that department so all time person can do is pray for rain.

The DA Secretary can forcefully intervene by way of another government to pursue much needed rehabilitation of the country's irrigation systems, some of which date back to pre-World War II era, as water sources are threatened and new sources tapped to support our agriculture.

There is a trade-off between the monetized best during summer, 40 percent of water is lost even before reaching the taste of the plant so any, no engineering solutions should be devised to avoid this.

In the area of mining, Salvador Lopez wrote a book about the history of mining in the Philippines. The title of the book is "Isles of Gold". It speaks of the bountiful mineral resources in the country, i.e., nickel, coal, silver and gold.

The government should then take stock of all its natural resources, e.g., geothermal, land, sea, minerals, etc. and create comprehensive and sensible plans to put them into good and sustainable use for the benefit of all Filipinos.

Prioritize BSP . . .

From page B1

Legacy Group as reason to shield the BSP from charges involving bank closures.

Under the current system, owners/operators of banks ordered closed by the BSP may contest such an order in court by filing a request for temporary restraining order (TRO), and restrain central bank officials.

Regulators said ten people would have been duped by the Legacy-owned banks and the government, through Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. could have shouldered less deposit insurance claims, if the banks were closed as soon as the BSP ordered the closure.

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Stranded passengers may soon get better deal

CAB to issue guidelines to improve customer service

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE CIVIL Aeronautics Board (CAB) will soon come out with guidelines that seek to better protect the interests of consumers.

CAB Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla in a recent interview said the regulator was currently drafting guidelines for procedures to be followed by airlines during long flight delays.

He said the CAB would order airlines to treat their passengers better during flight delays, even if these are caused by factors beyond human control. This comes after the recent diversion of scheduled flights to secondary airports around the country following the inability of aircraft to land at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NIA) runway.

Planes coming from both international and domestic destinations, which were unable to land in Manila due to poor weather conditions, were forced to land either in Clark Freeport, Pampanga or Cebu City.

While waiting for conditions in Manila to improve, Arcilla said most airlines simply kept passengers inside their aircraft for hours on end.

"This is why we're coming up with passenger protection guidelines for various delays," he said.

He said under the regulator's draft rules, airlines will be required to at least provide drinking water and light snacks to their passengers in case of delays.

Under the same rules, the CAB said if a plane is stuck on a runway for more than three to four hours, the airline will be required to allow the passengers to alight the aircraft if they choose to do so.

"We will let them choose if they want to deplane. But of course, there are some exceptions like if the passengers will be put in danger or allowing them to get off will cause undue delays to other flights," Arcilla said.

The CAB will have a public hearing regarding the draft rules this week.

Another set of rules for passenger protection, Arcilla said, involve transparency over the promotions of discounted tickets. He said the CAB issued the rules on promotional fares earlier this year, but some implementation has not yet begun.

In the new rules, he said airlines will have to be clear that government taxes and surcharges are usually not included in the discounted prices being advertised.

"They also have to report to the CAB how many seats for the promos are available," he said.

Failure to follow these rules will result in stiff sanctions and fines of as much as P1 million each, the cancellation of an airline's permit to operate in the country, Arcilla said.

Prioritize BSP charter bill, gov't urged

By Michelle V. Ratio

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has urged Pres. Aquino to act on the long-standing bill to amend its charter.

Senior Deputy Gov. Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the proposed law will help the central bank perform its main mandate of conducting monetary policy and regulating the banking sector more efficiently in benefit the overall economy.

One of the key amendments in the revised bank's charter stated under the proposed bill, filed by Sen. Edgardo Angara, are allowing the BSP to trade in own bonds and providing immunity from legal charges of BSP officials concerned with enforcing a shutdown of an erring or bankrupt bank.

"We want to assure the proposed law to the administration that the BSP is given the power (to trade in own bonds) so that it can better manage liquidity in the system and to ensure efficiently achieve its goal of keeping inflation within tolerable levels while helping maintain the growth of the economy.

On the proposed immunity from legal charges involving bank closures, the BSP said it can better regulate the banking sector if the recommendation is adopted.

Regulators have cited the inherent cost of the closures of rural banks owned by the

PROMOTES B3 >

Wish list for President Aquino

By Roberto Juanitas T. Dizon
Former Deputy Treasurer

WITH AN 88 percent popularity rating, the highest ever for an elected President, Benigno Aquino III has the momentum and goodwill he needs to immediately introduce critical governance, economic and fiscal reforms needed to catapult our nation to the league of Asia's fast-growing economies.

Indonesia's Yudhoyono marked his administration's first twelve months during down-cut graft and corruption. The rest of the world saw how serious he was in prosecuting the fat-cat tax dodgers. Foreign investments came pouring in, tourists picked up, financial markets became vibrant and there was no looking back.

President Aquino is right, there is no need to borrow or increase tax rates. The Bureau of Customs and Internal Revenue just have to collect the right amount of taxes and customs duties. If we have an honest taxman, ordinary citizens and corporate citizens will pay the right taxes.

Pres. Aquino should also look at how to make better use of Congress' pork barrel. It must be equitably distributed to every congressional district and province. The funds become Allowances to local governments should also be reconsidered.

As President, he must do his homework diligently, study relevant economic strategies and closely look at successful governance, business and economic models abroad.

There can be rather direct or work lines.

Here are classic examples: In Russia and in Brazil, which chronically suffered from huge tax collections shortfalls, the government adopted counter-intuitive revenue measures.

Both lowered corporate tax rates from high 30s to mid 20s. They are now collecting record tax payments as their tax bases have broadened and given investors a psychic required taxes.

In our economic structure where informal industries comprise about 40 percent of our Gross Domestic Product, this radical approach may be the panacea.

He can further look into the pension fund system in South America, traffic management in Korea, railway systems in Europe, environment protection approach in New Zealand, electronics and logistics industries in Singapore, and many more.

He must commit to a national plan with economic components, e.g., governance principles, economic agenda, infrastructure program, capital and financial markets thrusts, legislative framework needed as scaffolding to support all these critical components of this national development plan.

If we can sustain our economic growth of 7.10 percent a year for the next six to seven years, we will graduate to become the next tiger economies or even the next Singapore.

This can be achieved through infrastructure modernization of ports, airports, railways, railways and economic zones.

It this plan is clear to all the stakeholders, both in and her market and business players, then all of us will know how we can do our respective roles to support the plan. It will be our guiding light, the symbol of our national aspirations and, indeed, we will all collectively prosper it.

We are also proud to proclaim that our key economic resource is our skilled and talented OFWs.

There are 3,000 Filipinos who leave the country every day and that would be almost a 100,000 economic and new conditions a year as we continue to this coming five 10 million Filipinos deployed overseas.

Their remittances keep our economy afloat, providing the country with needed dollar reserves.

There is a need to develop a program for our OFWs that will standardize and further enhance their skills and talents so that we can develop a national branding of high quality and reliability that is the OFW.

The President should put to rest the DOLE to come up with a meaningful program to minimize social costs, e.g., family problems, separations, abandonment of children, drug addiction, that are consequences of migrating family members).

The DOF, DTI and BSP, on the other hand, should help the OFWs in financial and investment literacy so that their hard-earned income

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Wall Street seen to be on brink of breakout

TRADERS discuss the day's events on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday. A flurry of strong earnings reports recently renewed Wall Street's optimism on the economic recovery. —AP

More positive reports may feed rally ahead

NEW YORK—Wall Street is on the cusp of a breakout in US stocks, but it will need another spate of convincing earnings reports to feed the rally that sprouted at the end of last week.

The markets suffered malaise with poor economic data and disturbed tensions from Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke on Wednesday but turned decisively after a number of strong results pointed to better times ahead.

The bank will bring more results from bellwethers like Chevron, DuPont and Boeing. The week will be topping the subpoenas with accumulated gains—and hoped-for improvements in volume—that would signal an upturn in sentiment.

"There's a constant struggle between the bulls and the bears when in fact the answer is in the middle ground. This market is more like a turkey and not a bull or a bear," said Brian Jacobsen, chief portfolio strategist at Wells Fargo Funds Management in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

Investors have been forced to readjust their expectations for the economy, with data showing the pace of the recovery has gone from a sprint to a crawl.

It has also prompted a divisive argument over the likelihood of an earnings recession. But if worries over a double dip are starting to be washed out of the market, an unexpected positive could feed the market higher.

The broad S&P 500 rose 0.6% itself reaching new top of a key resistance level that could turn into a floor for the market. The index closed at 1,982.98, just above the psychologically important 1,300 level for the first time in a month. The level has been a hard one to hold and could buoy the market if the move is ultimately a decisive one.

With the S&P 500 edging out of official correction territory, trading down about 9 per-

WALL ST.

US bank failures now total 103

WASHINGTON—US bank failures reached 103 so far in 2014 on Friday as regulators seized seven small banks, a faster pace of closures than last year when the century mark was not reached until October.

Bank failures are expected to peak this quarter, with the industry slowly recovering from large portfolios of bad loans, many tied to commercial real estate.

The banks seized on Friday were Sterling Bank of Lantana, Florida; Covenant Bank and Trust Company of Jasper, Georgia; Williamsburg First National Bank of Kingstree, South Carolina; Thunder Bank of Sylvan Grove, Kansas; Community Security Bank of New Prague, Minnesota; Southwest USA Bank of Las Vegas, Nevada and Home Valley Bank of East Jonesboro, Oregon, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

The largest of the seven banks was Covenant Bank and Trust with 11 branches and about $1.01 billion in total assets and $963.7 million in total deposits. The smallest was Thunder Bank with just two branches and $31.6 million in total assets and $28.3 million in deposits.

The FDIC estimated the seven failures would add about $471 million to the ratche to deposit insurance fund.

The FDIC has last month gave an update on the overall health of the bank industry, saying it was seeing improvement, but economic threats were still lacking.

The agency, which insures individual accounts up to $250,000, updated its estimates of the cost of bank failures, now expecting a $60-billion hit to its insurance fund from 2010 through 2014.

The recovery of the community bank industry has lagged the boomerback of Wall Street and recovery of the overall economy.

Beyond Bank Corp. agreed to assume all of the deposits of Sterling Bank, the FDIC said. Reuters

Investors tap alternative currencies

NEW YORK—Investors' love affair with the "other" currencies may be just beginning.

The Canadian dollar, Australian dollar and Swedish crown are gaining in popularity as investment tool mainly here for investors amid rumbling outlooks for the United States, Euro zone and Japan.

Global reserve managers are leading the trend. In the first quarter, central banks reported their reserves added a record $24.5 billion of "other" currencies to their portfolios, Morgan data show.

The share of reserves in "other" currencies stood at 3.7 percent in the first quarter, up from 1.5 percent at the beginning of this decade. It is generally believed this category includes currencies of Canada, Australia, Norway, Sweden and New Zealand.

Jens Nordvig, head of G10 foreign exchange strategy at Nomura in New York, said the growing inflows into value he called the "new safe havens" were seen to continue as central banks rethink their allocations, a development that could boost those currencies in the years ahead.

"It's going to be a massive amount of money that potentially comes in, and there could be a very big impact on those currencies even if it's a relatively small absolute amount of central bank portfolios," he said.

Such demand may have already helped cushion the impact on some of those currencies from the recent global turbulence.

The Canadian dollar, for example, has shown resilience to recent months despite a case in commodity prices and stocks worldwide on economic worries.

Since mid-April, the MSCI world equity index has fallen 3.5 percent, while oil prices have lost 8 percent. During the same period, the loonie lost only 2.6 percent against the US dollar, going as low as C$1.0811. After the collapse of Lehman Brothers in late 2008, the loonie fell as low as C$1.3617, according to Reuters data.

"The Canadian dollar is a currency you want to own," said David Rosenberg, chief economist and strategist at money management firm Gluskin Sheff in Toronto. "Canada has basically been to enter coming out of the credit crisis as a bastion of stability to an increasingly unstable world."

As a percentage of GDP, Canada's general government net debt is estimated at 32 percent for 2014, the lowest among the Group of Seven economies.

In contrast, Japan has the highest net debt at 122 percent and the United States is at 96 percent, according to data from the International Monetary Fund.

Currencies of wealthy G10 economies tend to have better liquidity and track records of

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Integrated Computer Systems, Inc.

Weak scenario taints stress test results

Regulators test banks' combat readiness

PARIS—Stress tests are frequently used by regulators as well as by banks themselves to determine resilience to specified risks, but until now the results have never been published in Europe.

The procedure relies on several potential situations one or two years down the road which are then applied to a bank's component portfolios—credit, investment, debt—in order to measure their expected performances.

The basis is centred imagined scenarios combines existing macroeconomic forecasts.

The results obtained by applying this outlook are then compared to those generated by another—more extreme—form of events, which the example could include pronounced growth slowdown or even a recession, a surge in unemployment, a much steeper plunge or a fall in the value of sovereign debt.

The Committee of European Banking Supervisors, based in London, is basing its analysis on growth rates three percentage points below estimates from the European Union's economist commissioners.

That would mean a recession in 2010 and 2011 and a rise in unemployment next year to 10.9 percent of the workforce in the base scenario and 11.5 percent in the worst case.

But it does not take account of a situation in which a European government would default. Some analysts argue that for this reason alone the credibility of the tests may be called into question.

Once the assets of bank are applied to this worst-case situation, the regulator or the bank itself calculates the state of the institution's finances.

If the asset level is judged to be sufficient, the bank passes the test. If not, the bank is considered in need of raising more funds.

In recent weeks, top EU officials have sent strong signals that measures would be announced quickly to reassure that those banks found wanting would receive government help to shore up their balance sheets. AFP

European banks allow deeper look into their books than expected

VIENNA—The problem of Europe's banking sector consists of seven small regional banks who need to raise 3.5 billion euros ($4.3 billion) to get into shape.

Otherwise, everything is fine.

That was the message of European supervisors when they released the results of a fourth check of European banks that was devised to restore confidence in a sector plagued by persistent market mistrust into the quality of its assets and capital.

The results fell short of investor expectations of how many banks would fail and how much capital they would need to raise, fueling doubts about the exercise which was already dismissed as a political show of Europeans bank slapping.

"With a 92 percent pass rate, it is factually a success," said Thorsten Holland, director of Barclays Bourse in Paris. "But it's one that it leaves the after-taste of work that has gone unfinished, because maybe in some that success was the only possible outcome."

The tests on Friday first fell as doubts rose about the most credible, but it later went back to previous levels.

The 91 stress test last year—the so-called blueprint for Europe's exercise—had half of the banks tested fail, and led to $75 billion of capital raisings, although the financial and economic backdrop looked far worse then.

A Goldman Sachs poll of 376 investors just before the results were released had shown the expectation that there would be a shortfall of 37.6 billion euros.

This is of course a direct result of the lenient assumptions of the test and the low threshold to pass. However, it also reflects that Europe's banks were being tested after a series of recapitalizing activities that already happened this year and last.

Carola Fainer analysts have calculated that European banks have raised 230 billion euros one way or the other in the last 18 months, and the results reflect this.

The decision to publish the results

Pleasing your ears without costing you an arm and a leg

Text and photos by Charles E. Rubio

MOST MULTIMEDIA speakers sound great when you're in front of them. This is fine if you're always glued to your PC playing games or enjoying You Tube or CNN video clips. But what if you just want to listen to music and had to be away from its so-called "sweet spot?"

Logitech tries to remedy this problem by coming out with the Z523 2.1 speaker system wherein each left- and right-hand satellite speaker features 2-inch dome-based sound-producing drivers.

The result is a set of speakers that projects sound evenly in all directions.

At P4,750, the Z523 may be considered a bargain since you also get a box that features a 4-inch downfiring subwoofer as well as a front-facing 8.5-inch passive resonance, which at 25.6 cm x 21 cm x 24 cm is small enough to be stored under the desk.

A breeze

Setting up the Z523 is a breeze. After plugging the left- and the right-hand speakers in the back of the subwoofer box, you only have to deal with the right-hand speaker where the volume and bass knob controls are located, headphone and a line-input jack located on the side as well as a 3.5mm jack that connects to a computer's audio player or DVD player.

Meanwhile, if you want to connect additional devices, a stereo line-in jack—the red and white RCA jacks—is located at the back of the subwoofer.

The 40-Watt Z523 is powerful enough to serve a medium-sized room, and each sound channel produces you no longer have to stay in one spot in order to stay within the speakers system's "sweet spot."

The Z523's satellite speakers were designed so they could be placed anywhere in the room, even on the walls.

Big plus

The subwoofer box is a big plus, considering that at its price range, the Z523 does deliver a good amount of bass while providing ample low-end frequencies that you can feel the kick, punch and explosions in movies and songs have emphasis.

While the Z523 won't give you the loudness you expect, you will be rewarded instead with an audio that is free from distortion even at full volume.

All in all, if you're looking for a comfortable multimedia speaker system—and don't mind having to deal with placing a subwoofer on the floor—the Z523 is already a good choice. It is, in fact, one of the better speaker systems in its price category. While it won't slander you with rich, crisp, clean sound, the latest Logitech offering will certainly let you have a good time with Snoop Dogg's rap or the thrashing that comes when Jason Statham hits the kill pads hard.

LOGITECH Z523

Even peripherals do get makeovers

By Raquel P. Gomez

MICROSOFT Hid been producing mice and keyboard since 1981. But the global leader in software and services doesn't seem to ring a bell when it comes to hardware products, except, of course, for the Xbox gaming console.

Microsoft plans to boost its presence in the local PC peripherals market by appointing local IT products distributor MILREX as its exclusive distributor of mice, keyboard and web-cam products.

A Microsoft hardware user, courtesy of MILREX, has already opened at the Digital Alley in Greenhills 3 in Mabini City.

Microsoft and MILREX officials said they would open more concept stores that would bring Microsoft peripherals outside reach of Filipino consumers.

The current crop of Microsoft hardware products don't come cheap...most carry a price of P2,000 above—and they're targeted at those in corporate communities who want stylish peripherals to go with their sleek looking PCs and laptops.

From the Arc family of mouse, to gaming mouse, Bluetooth keyboard, and high-definition web cameras—Microsoft's range of hardware products are described to be peripherals that feature "style that works." Behind each pretty Microsoft device is actually a powerful working innovation.

A key asset to bringing Microsoft is promoting is the "BlueTrack," which the Redmond-company claims to be the next answer in tracking technology that will replace laser and optical mice technologies.

BlueTrack technology employs a large, blue beam and specialize optics as it measures fine works in connection with a Microsoft-designed image sensor. This allows for exceptional tracking accuracy, said Iris, Microsoft's marketing communications manager.

What BlueTrack is available in right Microsoft mice that includes the entry level Wireless Mobile Mouse 3000 (entry level), a sporty design Wireless Mobile Mouse 4000, and the gaming mouse SideWinder X6 Mouse.

An unusually shaped mouse, the Microsoft Arc Mouse, which was launched on 2008, features a compact shape that can be folded and naturally be tucked inside a bag.

Literally, a "squeeze-to-flatten" the Arc Mouse, which comes in many colors, also features a patent-pending clip that Microsoft executives describe as "the magic that keeps easily lost the button of the mouse."

The Arc family of peripherals also includes the Arc keyboard, which shares the same chiclet streamlined look of the Arc mouse.

Microsoft also has the Bluetooth Mobile Keyboard 6000, a super light and thin keyboard that features the Comfort Curve design, which encourages natural wrist posture with no slight-to-deep curves.

Microsoft's web cameras all feature 720p high definition resolutions as well as image processing technology that provides brightness and sharpness in even the worst lighting conditions.

MICROSOFT Arc Mouse

MILESTOOTH Mobile Keyboard 6000

Gadgets that . . .

Turn to page B16

smart EV

The Tagalog way for the closest thing that is to "an invalid" It's a little more than a moped. If you want to look like coolness and make some heads turn your way, do not have to run the hassle to outfit another the only way to do so is through a $25,000 Smart electric vehicle. It runs for about 11 miles per charge—if taken it hours to fully charge that's! Not to worry, 800 miles per gallon. With the Smart ED, you've graduated from taking a taxi to it literally, good to go any warrior, bringing passionate advocacy to the next level. Just be sure not to get caught between a bus and a pickup truck—that would be no smart

The Firsb and Only Fire and Water Proof Hard Drive in the Philippines

July 6, 2010 (Manila, Philippines) — Data loss is at business enterprises. It is the key driver that propels any business. While you may have already invested in your database management system, it is just not enough. More than the act of safekeeping your data you have to be mindful of how you can keep it protected at all conditions.

Innovations were made to counter computer virus, software corruption or even human error. How about natural disaster? Do you have what it takes to protect your data against fire, flood even earthquake?

Just recently another technological advancement in database management system was introduced in the market — a disaster proof hard drive.

isSafe Hard Drive is a disaster proof computer hardware designed to protect business and even personal data. The new technology specifically integrated the fire and flood proof features that provide simple and secure business continuity and disaster recovery strategies for business. Much like a "disaster plan-in-a box", it represents the highest value solution for consumers, small and medium enterprises, and even government entities to protect their records in an ever-wider variety of data loss scenarios. isSafe Hard Drive is a proven self-installing investment compared to tape or online backup systems. It provides the best combination of protection, speed, total cost of ownership, capacity and simplicity.

It is most commonly used as a remote office backup, a replacement to tape or online vaulting, in filling back up of data recovery gaps, or in connection with continuous data protection software. The isSafe hard drives come in 500GB, 1 TB and 2TB capacities. For pricing and more isSafe technology information call 342-1111 or email at sales@isafetmac.com.ph.

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INFOTECH

• Beats by Dr. Dre

Nothing would make a geek look Geeky Sexies like a pair of fad headphones. Lebron James handed out a pair of Beats to each and every member of the Cavaliers, never mind if each headphone costs around $250.

Kobe Bryant uses a purple and gold Beats. Paris Hilton digs a white one. So forget about SkullCandy, Jeffy's—that's so Jollibee part 1. I guarantee you'd look hot in this pair of beats even while bopping your head and listening to "It's Raining Men." So, go get loaded (no pun intended). Available in the Philippines at http://www.debeats.com/

• Colorwear Stealth Macbook Pro

The iStealth MBP is one of those most- have gadgets that's near impossible to obtain. Even if you were to sell one of your kidneys, that wouldn't guarantee you a shot at getting one. Apart from the $1,999 price tag, you'll have to pull a lot of strings just to get up in the ranks of the long waiting list. It's the Colorwear Pursuit of MacBook Pros. 15 pounds of geek and cool, whip out this ultra rare MBP's. I'm pretty sure girls will be swooning over you in no time. Just watch out for spilled coffee, drooling babies and the table hang-out to scratch your precious Stealth.

Gadgets that would make a geek look sexy

By Maria M. Ramirez, MD
Contributor

• The New Apple iPad

No self-respecting geek would be caught reading a book, much more lugging around tons of books in his backpack. That's just too damn cute face it, the Kindle, or Kindle2 are cooties, but they're just not mobile enough as an ebook reader. Geeks need something garish and eye-catching. Something that shouts, "You don't have this... but I do!" So the only gadget that would make a geek once with nothing is the Apple iPad. Why? Because it's thin enough to use as a bar to cord the hotness off of you and drive the point home as to how sexy you really are. Forget that it doesn't support Flash, you really don't need to watch porn in public anyway. Remember you're a sexy geek not a perv. Also, don't mind the fact that it does not have a physical keyboard, making it impossible for you to complete your literary work. And besides, who says it's for work? It's there only to make you look slinky.—consider it the tech equivalent of having a trashy girlfriend. So I suggest you get one now before everyone joins the bandwagon.

• Voltaic Solar Backpack

This Generator Backpack does not only work with sensuality, it also shoots. "I'm crazy and eco-friendly." For $299, the backpack will make it worth your while, even when you're roaming on Buendia Avenue trying to catch a taxi to Manila as your energy go all stinky with sweat.

With the pack covering your back, you may just get hot enough to allow you to feed up the solar panels even on a cloudy day. That in itself may be enough to power charge your laptops, music players, Ebook readers, vibrators and other electronic gadgets that would fit in it's spacious well-padded compartment.

So why is it sexy? Well because having an advocacy is tantalizing. People dig guys with a passionate advocacy. So there it all your gadgets would cost you tens of thousands of pesos on electricity alone, wearing this Solar Backpack would let other people know that you do care for the environment. How cool/hot is that?

GADGETS 101

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BY CHABLIS Co

Noynoy to open ManilArt 10

The country's biggest art fair aims to make art accessible to a bigger audience

By Johnathan Lilo-Ito Rentino
Contributor

NOW ONLY on its second year, ManilArt, first hosted by the country's premiere showcase for the best in Filipino contemporary art, will open July 19 with an invitational gala at SM Mall of Asia's SMX Convention Center.

The art fair will bring together artists, gallerists and art lovers from across the Philippines in what is regarded to be the year's biggest gathering of the local visual arts community. President Benigno Aquino III is expected to grace the event in his first official engagement with the art community.

Start of something big

ManilArt is the brainchild of gallerist Jonathan Ay, who was elected in 2007 by the late Imelda Wilkins, then Visual Arts Director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, to join the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Galleries Committee.

"I'd a lot of people were attending committee meetings and [thinking] how] could we bring video galleries owners in place

NOYNOY C2

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Remembering Joey Velasco

Text and photos by Dennis R. Murillo
Contributor

THE ARTIST

I DIET Joey Velasco quite late in his rather truncated life of 41 years. I met him only in 2008, when his show "Mismanders" opened at Ekstrema in Makati.

It was not hard to see where Joey was amidst the crowd of onlookers and well-wishers, as he was a big man. Joey expressed surprise, saying he had expected somebody who had written about his previous show, "Landes," at the UST Museum, to be a bit older.

He invited me to his home in Batasan, which was a long drive from my place in Paranaque. The first thing I noticed when I entered his house was the large "Hoping my Pop-Eye" that hung in the wall dividing the living room and the dining area.

I told Joey that probably the reason why I found it easy to tell his story was because of how I was able to relate to him. It's a story that has been told many times, but I never tire of writing about how he fought till a large mass on his kidneys, and how he left us depressed that at times he would look himself upon his return.

JOHNSON C2

Journey through canvas

THE ARTIST and her work at Greyzone Gallery in Makati

With bold brushstrokes and striking colors, visual artist Rina Macasaet paints her—and to her surprise, other people's—life stories

By Joy Rojas
Contributor

VIRGINIA "RINA" MACASAET is a self-taught painter who can't seem to save her life—or will attack a canvas with her trademark bold brushstrokes and color once a moment strikes.

Once "in the zone," as she puts it, she could paint flowers, skipping meals, sleep, even trips to the bathroom, if she could. So true of losing whatever emotion she feels she must express through her art. Admittedly, it's a habit that she tries she cherished over 16 weeks in two weeks—often hours are exhausted, and perhaps just a little dancing than when she started. But Macasaet, 46, wouldn't have it any other way.

"I just like to paint," she says expressively. Her offerings to Greyzone Gallery at Power Plaza (2 Legaspi Street, Greenbelt Park, Makati, where her third show "Mind, Water and the Blue Moon in Virginia's World" was until today. "I just have to paint when I'm feeling something."

Her subconscious can't be contained, she said by a work. "I can't repeat what I do," she says. "What you see is what you get."

She also won't sit through a formal chat ("Because I only end up doing my own thing after"), or be convinced to put up a show just like that. Her Greyzone exhibit, in fact, came 12 years after her first (and second) show, and would not have happened hadn't her sister insisted.

"I believe in the timing of things," says Macasaet. "Five, 10, 12 years, it doesn't matter."

Visual equivalents

She certainly spent the time well, creating striking visual equivalents of her experiences as a single mom of two teenage girls: a daughter watching her mother disintegrate from a stroke, and her ever-away from her family and co-

Noynoy to open ManilArt 10

From page C1

ning next night's art projects.

Tetsuhiro said he was sure Pose Haven in the business," words by "and started taking [him] only about doing an exhibit together as one group for the color of work."

Their new home Bago (Kanahide art collectors organization), whose annual "Taste of Art" exhibit in 2008 drew tremendous positive response.

In 2009, Bago was ready for's more ambitious project. With a grant from the NCCA, the organization staged Manahit 09, participated in by 40 of the country's leading art galleries representing over 300 artists and showcasing over 500 artworks.

The four-day event drew over 8,000 visitors to the SMC Tent in Taguig. Participating galleries reaped a combined income of P28 million.

"We hope to at least double all those numbers the next," says Ig.

Making art accessible

In however, is quick to point out that ManilArt is not all about business.

"Our aim is to make art accessible to all, not just the rich and famous," he says. "More all, art matters can thrive only when a significant percentage of the population is an literate, mindful and appreciative of the role the arts play in daily life."

This year, Bago is joining hands with several cultural and academic institutions to bring Philippine visual arts closer to the public: Alliance Française de Manille, Ayala Museum, BenCab Museum, Boiteh Gonzales, GSIS Museum, Instituto Cervantes, Metropolitan Museum, National Museum and Pacheco Museum.

Students and educators from different schools, including Ateneo de Manila, Philippine Women's University, School of Fashion and the Arts, St. Scholastica's College, University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas are also participating in the activities and lectures scheduled July 29-Aug. 1.

"In most schools, art-related subjects are taught in school courses, if at all," laments Jennifer Rabellon, chair of the Fine Arts Department of St. Scholastica's College-Manila.

"Most institutions today are caught in the high-tech frenzy," he adds, "privileging technology over architecture and creativity. This is unfortunate because many of today's complex social problems need creative solutions from problem-solvers who need to think like artists. ManilArt is a good venue for students and teachers alike to attend learning beyond the classroom."

For ManilArt 10, Bago has assembled a panel of renowned experts, artists and educators to deliver lectures on art-making and practice, criticism and appreciation, on July 30-Aug 1.

The lecture series includes talks on legal issues and expression by lawyer Tessa Angeles; art preservation and conservation of works of art on paper by Alessandra Imbalzano; artwork photography by Ross Capili; and a study of images in contemporary art by Cid Reyes.

Ramon Lerma will also talk about the Mono Art Auction; Dennis Quijano-Sacris and Stephanie Dimalanta will talk about the Pecnik process; Ateneo's residency program for Filipino artists in France.

Auction as highlight

Another highlight of ManilArt 10 is the art auction organized by Finale Art File.

Some 50 works from among the most exciting contemporary artists including Andrew Barrameda, Elmer Borlongan, Claudio Cu, Dindo Diaz, Jose Tence Ruiz will be auctioned off during the live Silent Bids will be accepted until July 31. Winning bids will be announced on Aug. 1.

An especially arresting piece by Arturo Kalaylay, "Where are Birds," will also be auctioned off. Kalaylay is one of few young Filipino visual sculptors whose works are sought after by such international auction houses as Sotheby's and Christie's.

In her piece for ManilArt, Kalaylay pays homage to the German artist Kiefer, celebrated for his highly controversial paintings. Kalaylay's tribute is a masterful recreation of balance and composition, providing a personal depiction of the ongoing conflict dialogues. Its powerful and viewers post and protests, as well as an examination of the Alibayong styles and techniques that at once divide and unite the artists spirit.

Other notable pieces included are new works by masters Jose Tence Ruiz and Ardi Magsayo-Ho.

MANILART 10 is open to the public daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m. July 29-Aug. 1.

Call 5314231 or 0917 8511333. Visit www.manilart.com.

Layers of power in Imao's 'Open Endings'

By Katrina Stuart Santiago
Lively Master

INDI SEAMLESSLY intertwines with strength and power as the black and red brass sculptures of Jose Tapid Imao's exhibit "Open Endings," which originally opened at Art Quad. Drawn for knowledge Ramiro Lobby, and now runs at 1-08 Gallery, Serendra, Global City, Taguig.

The sculptures come to their honoured mostly as big frame—all renderings of the human anatomy. The three-dimensionality forces the spectator to stand and stare, touch and feel, live with the works, if only for a bit.

But the sculptures resonate with pain, as they are a number of Imao's late on Philippine soldiers.

"Right to Leave" depicts a man with arms in front of him, first held right and body inside. He's equipped and padlocked from the waist down; the hand clutches Bonifacio's bi-pointed knife and. The sculpture chooses that you should fight for the truth that is otherwise silenced or muffled.

"Leave to Fight" seems like a parent to the UP "Oblation." It's much like "Fight." This time, though, the arms spread open to the sides are tied down to the earth from the waist down by the head of Jose Rizal.

"Transcendental" depicts a man curled up, with arms around the legs, head bowed. In the man's hand is a rice-grinding stone on his back is and club that's made to look like a vault. His hunger and suffering are obviously wages of unobserved is proclaiming.

Two pregnant bellies are known's person is reconsidered. In "Freedom," the small pregnant belly looks like a separate piece, hinged onto the body in two closes pad, locked in the middle. The years, of course, is done that is called "freedom"—a woman's body padlocked by pregnancy.

"A Lifetime of Letters" is most powerful. The woman's pregnant body is painted from torso outward, which is broad-armed into a cauldron with the opening above the breasts, and the belly known as cleavage.

"Conversation" is two figures of a tree, cut at the roots, attached to each other by a thin line, one facing the world in black, the other behind it in red. The stark similarities the truth of mind and violence, of

the gallery to "say goodbye" to her paintings before they were packed and sent off to their new owners.

"But there's one side of me that says, 'Let it go,'" she says finally "because if you don't let them go, nothing new will come in."

The middle child of six children, Macasaet was surrounded by creativity all her life. Her mother, Teresita Khan, was a Fine Arts graduate who made ornaments for priests and ran a crafts workshop. An older sister who is based in Palo designed handbags, she wasn't herself known—rock, hard and make jewelry, but she never delved in the visual arts until her mother died. When her mother went painting as a form of therapy to help her recover from stroke, Macasaet followed suit, and discovered a gift she never knew she had.

"My talent really came out late in life," she says. "So I guess it's never too late for anyone. Talent is talent."

Since then, she's also logged into her oldest ex-works. Her blog (inkdoll.multiply.com) features poems, reflections, sometimes accompaniments to her paintings.

Clearly a book is in the works. But what about a fourth solo show? Netlovers hope it won't take another 12 years.

"For as long as a session journeys," says Macasaet, "painting will always be my variant, my constant companion."

Love's wages and Farley del Rosario

By Lito B. Zulueta

FARLEY DEL Rosario's "Lovers Nine Lives" is a bittersweet paean to love's paradoxical capacity to be both ritual and fatal. Perhaps more of the latter since, going by the usually unsubstantiative adverbs employed in the collection, the artist appears to have abandoned his trademark nail nylons for something darker, less showy.

The happy news, however, is that Del Rosario has stuck to the pinnochio figures with rendyl arms and legs that have endeared him to our hearts, particularly those with a penchant for effective images amid childlike simplicity. The figures are all here, albeit in sad gray colors, alleviated sometimes by a relief of red here, a spot of pastel there.

But admittedly some images have been added in the masterpiece comes that strikes open up like sores or taper off like stalagmites, the latter's graceful perpetuity forms somehow giving a sense of dynamic to the canvas.

In "Another Pinocchio Story," a monolike figure has an elongated nose amid a cone that looks like a volcano sprouting fire and clouds in ash gray or pale white. The scene is apocalyptic.

"Leaving on a Jet Plane" shows a

"ANOTHER Pinocchio Story"

"MSK and You Shall Find"; (right) "Temporary Disconnection"

created figure suspended in the air relieving from a box a tiny airplane while the skies shed tears.

"Temporary Disconnection" shows a couple seated but their backs almost turned against each other; the margins of love have shed head with a square box that seems to ensure the disconnection would last; the state of love being an extended inconvenience.

The title work shows a car suspended in an overcast sky amid nine eyeballs and rocket-like tin

apes, on which are tied human figures struggling to get free. The effect is subdued, but the blue says to using from the gray cloud shaded also prefigure a sense of optimism and release.

The series is rounded up by Del Rosario's new experiments on three-dimensional art. Ironically in mixed media and found objects, the works are both playful and passionless, if not intriguing.

"Love's Nine Lives" is on view at Lopf Gallery, 2/F, Shops at Seven, 5th, Bonifacio Global City. Call 909.3151.

"ANOTHER Pinocchio Story"

Visual Arts

"STAND - O"

Doctolero at Whitewall

"Stand-Filtered works by Ferdinand R. Doctolero," is a combination of three- and two-dimensional artworks. The sculptural works maintain a position opposite to his old wood, expressing an icy quality. The paintings share a acrylic and charcoal on canvas are representational a specified condition according to the sculptural process. The exhibition comprises nine solo using monochromatic, bright colors and bold lines. "Stand" opens on July 24 and runs until Aug. 14 at Whitewall Gallery, 2/467 Bagtikan St., San Antonio Village, Makati City. 519.0021 / 519.0028.

Geraldo, Valenzuela at Alliance Française

Bacolod-based Jun Geraldo and Israel "Boy" Zenydon are joined by Davaoeño sculptor Mark Valenzuela in an exhibition of new works in terra-cotta and mixed media entitled "Singhasan" (Origin). The exhibition explores the mythical primitive and symbols of ruling, with the artists expressing their joy and affinity with something spiritual that comes from work. In with a medium that is part of the earth, a material that is elemental pain. The show runs Aug. 5-28 in Alliance Française Total Gallery 2338 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Nicanor St.), Bel-Air 2, Makati; tel. 8887449, 8887505; www.alliance.ph.

Clarification

In 2010 Lifestyle Arts and Books edition of July 12, the painting "Portrait of Dr. Jose Rizal" (1879), by National Artist Victorio Edades, was inadvertently used as a visual complement to the article "Juan Edades: Works to be Auctioned Off." Although the caption and the text did say Juan that the work was among those to be auctioned off, its inclusion might have given that impression. The painting, which is part of the collection of the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences, was meant to be a visual complement to the sidebar, "Victorio C. Edades: Father of Philippine Modern Art." Donated by Edades himself to UST, the painting is not for sale.

Datuin keeps to Olympic sport of sculpturing

By Josephine Gomez
Correspondent

SCULPTOR JOE Datuin is preparing for a joint show with Gil Cuerdo and Ramon Orlina at the SM Mall of Asia, and he's excited that Philippine sculpture is getting its fair share of international attention.

Datuin, of course, has contributed to that international interest, after he won the Grand Prize in the 2008 International Olympic Sport and Art International in Lausanne, Switzerland, where his entry, "Dancing Rings," a stainless steel representation of the Olympic rings, somehow rose from its other concerns.

Datuin says he cannot illustrate, Mondrian, Miro and Picasso as his role models. Although his statements help him get respect for his more famous colleagues, he says he did the final welding.

"In the gallery, I sit my work to make sure. In their view forces the space where more people are expected to come it leans," he says.

His sculptures measure 10' x 10' to 6 ft in height. Prices range from P60,000 to P500,000.

He is represented by Gallery 386 at the 3/F Design Plaza on Garcia Street, Makati City; Opus Gallery at The Podium; The 5/F Inge Art Gallery at the Alabang Town Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City; and the Oliveras Notary Gallery in Quezon City.

Considering the enormous demands of the whole creative process on one's physique, one wonders if the youthful-looking 54-year-old sculptor keeps in a regimen.

"I eat well and have no vices. I walk a lot," he says.

Can a bad physical condition get in the way of creative work?

"No, it doesn't impede me. One can work as long as one is inspired," he replies.

Aside from his winning piece, being on permanent display at the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland, his quadriptych "Pillars of Peace," measuring 11 ft x 5 ft each, has been on tour nationwide and around the world. Each piece is an abstract representation symbol of Love, Justice, Humility and Strength—virtues that contribute to world peace.

Datuin is also a painter. He says his paintings are on display in at least seven exhibitions in Europe and in the United States.

He has had 35 one-man shows and has participated in over 40 group shows.

Foreign and local travels are important to Datuin. This is how he is able to spread the message of his works and, in the process, expand his network and increase his clientele.

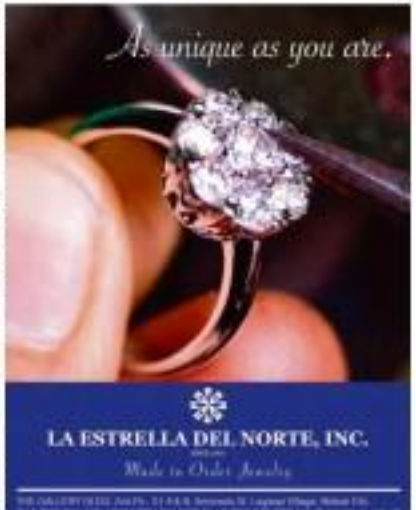
He has also been touring the country to give free art lessons to the youth and youth-at-heart of aspiring artists.

He believes that, just like his vibrant, attractive, clear-looking, polished and perfected rings, an artist must be conscientious, and must be of good character and of positive disposition always.

Datuin was endowed the Ilonggo ng Siniog at Kalinangan for sculpture by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim during the Araw ng Maynila Awards last month. He also received the Outstanding Alumnus in the Visual Arts award from University of Santo Tomas.

E-mail the author at josephinegomez@yahoo.com.

OLYMPIC Museum



Family shows for Theater Down South, plays 'worth a second look' for Dulaang UP

By Amado Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE PERFORMING arts scene is buzzing up again and, on mind, it is during the rainy season.

The major companies are about to open their new seasons of plays, concerts and dance performances. Restaurants are in full swing, and this month there has been a slew of press conferences.

As we have announcements, guidelines, dazzling previews of shows by young practitioners, press kits, good food and generous (to the sponsors) (as in body fonus and Goodyear) entertainers.

There have been back-to-back presentations by Tanghalang Pilipino (its previous "Bayang si Hilot: The Rock Musical") and the Cultural Center of the Philippines has announced the Gawad Buhay (GB) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines has announced the Gawad Buhay (GB) And

THE PILGRIMS will rest in El Burgo Ranero, continuing its 23-mile walk from Compuesto to Frómista.

THE MARTYR of his persuasion of Saint Fe, in one spot on the village of El Burgo Ranero (pictured).

WITH my knee in sight but your mind fixed, the morning sunlight was my horizon and walking in the punishing heat of the July I sometimes ask myself if I will reach my own destination alone.

CROSSES in stone have like this one on a cairn along the Camino. A powerful reminder of the penitential character of the pilgrimage on foot to Compostela.

THE CHURCH of San Pedro in the village of El Burgo Ranero.

Buen Camino!

STATUES on the façade of the Cathedral of Leon are carefully taken down for restoration. Our Lady and Child in the background has already been removed while this one in the foreground waits for its turn to be transported for restoration.

By Fr. Manuel Leandro Domingo jr., SDB
Contributor

THE TITLE literally means "Have a good walk!" or a "good journey!" It is a greeting to cheer you up, a wish that you may reach your destination, Santiago de Compostela, in good health. It is also a prayer so that angels may guide you along the way.

For 37 days, I walked over 770 km of Camino de Santiago from St. Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Without a map but guided only by yellow arrows or the scallop shell, the symbol of St. James, strategically planted along the path, I crossed the Pyrenees mountains, passed vineyards, vibrant and sunflower fields, cherished shaded paths lined with beech, pine or eucalyptus trees, endured the scorching sun shining gloriously over the long stretch of the Meseta in Castilla y Leon, survived the cold pouring rain from Astorga to Villafranca del Bierzo; braved the punishing winds up the climb to El Cebreiro; hiked cautiously through thick fog along the highway from Triacastela to Sarria; and then on the 31st of July, left Arca o Pino with so much anticipation on a cold rainy day, and with a mix of happiness, exhaustion, triumph and relief, reached the glorious Shrine of the Apostle James the Great, in Santiago de Compostela.

THE HOUSES along the Camino usually have flowerpots on the windows. This is a house in Viana, the village where Doña Blanca was buried. Juli photo by the church steeple next door to the Tavern of the Knight Templars in Puente la Reina.

Never alone

Although I went by myself, I never felt alone or lonely! As the saying goes, "Nunca se camina solo" (Nobody walks the Camino alone). I believe the magic and charism of the greeting "Buen Camino" united me with my fellow pilgrims. Strangers at first but, later through time and through the walk, we became a family!

Those three photographs would speak to you, inspire you, and ignite a fire within you to dare and to do the walk.

Though people do the Camino for various reasons—religious, cultural, recreational, gastronomical, I did it as a pilgrimage in honor and memory of my late mother, Maria Isaura C. Domingo (Oct. 22, 1936-Jan. 16, 2009), and in prayer for the recovery and healing of Former President Corazon C. Aquino, who at that time was very sick.

Treasured blessings

In the Camino, as I encountered people from different countries, I was also encountering myself in a renewed and sincere way. I learned to accept my fears, my limits, my insecurities, my doubts, as I discovered my inner strength, my faith, my courage, my trust and my hope.

God's presence was evident everywhere and in every step of every stage of the Camino. With the many blessings and graces received along the way, how could I not be grateful, very grateful indeed, the Camino was a journey of remembrances/blessings for me!

When I arrived in Santiago de Compostela on the morning of July 31, 2009, I was in awe and in utter disbelief! There at the vast expanse of Plaza de Obradoiro, with a staff on my hand, my knapsack on my back, perspiration flowing from my forehead and tears from my eyes, I beheld the magnificence of the Cathedral of Santiago! At that moment, I realized I was not dreaming, I was living the eternal Buen camino, everyone!

The photo exhibit "Buen Camino" is running at Our Lady Chapel in San Beda Makati until Aug. 1. *Proceeds are for the benefit of the Asian Medical Hospice*. Apostolate. Call 0917 3383868, 0923 7746033.

Young pianist electrifies audience

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

LORENZO "Enzo" Mediel

PIANIST LORENZO "Enzo" Mediel, a sophomore at La Salle Greenhills, electrified his listeners in a solo concert that featured solo pieces and a concerto. Beethoven's Third, the Concerto in C Minor, Op. 37.

The concert showcased the pianist's virtuosity in both technical as well as musical aspects. It was held recently at Philamlife Theater.

Mediel had at once showed his technical brilliance in Scarlatti's Sonata in both in X K.380, L.23 and K. 20, L.375, elegantly carving out flowing melodies. By using thoroughly, touching the keys lightly with sensitive fidelity in the finest baroque sensibility eloquently expressed in scale and arpeggios, trills, smooth counterpoints, and the like.

In the Schumann nominees, the Arabesque, Op. 18, and the Allegro Intermezzo, Op. 1, he executed both poetry and technical brilliance, all expressed in a youthful exuberance.

In the first piece, he stoked an unaffected lyricism that brought out the poetic charm of the piece.

Shrewdly, the concerto returned to the stogg Variations, which he played with gusto. He essayed the fantasies with such brilliance, truly making it the highlight of all the other solo pieces of the entire first session. Unaddicted and well disposed, his superb playing of this piece brought a boom the house.

Another voice

He continued to conquer the audience in Bartók's "Dirlaire" from Mvt. 3 "Melodramatic," a brief musical essay whose technical as well as musical challenges he artistically met. In this and in the work, Enzo had shown subprisms in brilliantly merging those driving chords that kept eloquent voicing evident in dancing fashion.

He displayed the same touch in Ramon Sarmo' "Rudimang," a composition that heralds the gong tradition of Mindanao. The composition echoes the hallowing, a melodic instrument composed of eight brazed gongs laid down horizontally in a row; and the suspended gongs, to form an ensemble that resembles that of Indonesia's gamelan.

Enzo vividly brought out "sounds or voice" of the piano. It was thought an impossibility until Enzo' genius made it a reality to be gloriously performed by Filipino pianists both here and abroad, showcasing the composer's creativity as to beat, texture progress was unencumbered by the pianist, and the announcement was met with a hearty applause.

East and West

Some Western composers have been enamored by the exoticism of the Asian sound. The French composer Claude Debussy was one of them. He would make his compositions exude such a flavor through the use of the whole-tone scale, evoking a fantastic mood associated with impressionism.

National Artist for Music Antonio Molina was a disciple of Debussy. He infused his work like "Makiisaw," with quite a success, mixing such flavor with his own brand of romanticism.

Enzo played "Makiisaw" with such fidelity to Molina's intent, fitting its sensitivity, all expressed with fruitfulness.

He pumped the solo session with Debussy's Prelude from the suite pour le Piano, thus unifying the second group of four pieces that crowned Asian sentiments, in contrast to the first four pieces that exuded extremity and hysterics.

The moving pianist's piece de resistance was, of course, Beethoven's Third Concerto. The Manila Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Jeffrey Solares, was on hand to collaborate with the young pianist.

The repartee was engaging. Enzo savored the work with brilliant dispatch. Phrasing was well articulated, and his tones sang. He struck a handsome balance with the orchestra, and was in right support.

Conductor Solares wielded the baton with acute precision, and was in command throughout.

Enzo camped his solo passages (andante) eloquently, and lowered as a pianist of consequence at the end. Unmistakably he is a pianist on the road to greatness!

FROM BOOK TO FILM

Mind-blowing 'Inception'

LEONARDO DiCaprio plays lead character Dom Cobb.

By Jordan Mart S. De Leon
Contributor

CHRISTOPHER NOLAN ("Memento" and "The Dark Knight") makes corporate espionage and sci-fi in "Inception."

Dom Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio) is a master thief who specializes in entering the mind and stealing information from the subconscious when it's at its most vulnerable—the dream state. But while his rare gift makes him a valuable asset in corporate wars, it has cost him things he holds most dear.

Taking interest in his ability is Saito (Ken Watanabe), a businessman who employs him with the promise of giving his life back. However, instead of stealing information from the subconscious, Cobb is given the disturbingly impossible task of inception, or planting an idea in a person's mind instead of stealing one.

Assembling a crew of "extractors"—led by the Architect (Ellen Page). Arthur the Point Man (Joseph Gordon Levitt), Eames the Forger (Tom Hardy), and Yusuf the Chemist (Dileep Rao)—Cobb sets out to pull off the perfect crime of entering the mind of an unsuspecting business empire, Robert Fischer Jr. (Cillian Murphy).

But despite all the rainfed and intricate preparations, the team finds itself dragged down by Cobb's harrowing past, and only Cobb himself can stop the operation from sliding in disaster.

"Inception" takes the viewer into the hellish world of dreams. The characters seem to shift between dream and reality. Those concepts may be perplexing for audiences but they also introduce and challenge.

Vibrant but withering close-up of the Philippine obsession—basketball

By Lito Gutierrez
Correspondent

That a nation of runts is mad about a game for whoppers owes to their infectious spirit as much as to their flawed culture, discloses a book by a young American sports journalist

WITH HIS nickname, Rafe (pronounced "reyf"), Bartholomew might have been wiser to introduce himself with his full Christian name, Raphael, when he first came to the Philippines. An assistant editor of Harper's Magazine, an acclaimed sportswriter and a bongo aficionado, Bartholomew in 2005 arrived in Manila on what was supposed to be a year-long Fulbright scholarship to find out why a nation of runts could be so irrationally smitten about a game for whoppers.

REVIEW

Welcomed into the locker room of the Alaska dons, its local players, in a ominous display of the native phonetic tendency to mix up "f" and "p," promptly nicknamed him Pepot. Bartholomew takes it all in stride because he realizes it is a sign that he has been accepted as a member of the fraternity. The hilarity of the appellation becomes cold sweat and everybody settles on Pacing Bartolomeo instead.

With a stipend for a year, he stayed for three, apparently addicted by what he saw and savored. He seemingly became a wealth of data and perspectives and just on Philippine basketball but also on the society in which, for better or worse, it thrived. All this he fashions into a book, "Pacific Rims." With such a vague title, the book would have been mistaken for other another tome on the emerging economies of Asia or a postcolonial featuring Asians and Pacific Islanders (under which, by the way Filipinos in America are classified).

But the cover photo of a shirtless young man in loose orange shorts and flip-flops, frozen in midflight a la Kobe Bryant shoot, is itself a mini-basketball tour: a makeshift ring, cobbled a better hint of what the book is all about. But the palmist is correct: "Everyone balls" in flip-flops and "the Philippines" unlikely love affair with basketball."

The review says the book is a "rollicking good time." Thanks to Bartholomew's brisk writing and delightful, disarming wit. It has the cyclone-raising blitz of historical texts, such as, basketball having been introduced to the Philippines during the American occupation as a girls' sport. And for die-hard Filipino fans, he relives the glory days of Philippine basketball, the era of stalwarts Padilla and Carlos Loyzaga when the Philippines was a team to reckon with globally.

He also throws in merry episodes of what he had to endure—the "homoerotic" in his American-cool cowboy among the players, to counting gatecrossed toe doors by panicking at halftime—and shared with them cheap gin with neighborhood hotbucks—all in an effort to feel native and be accepted as one.

Worm's-view

The thesis that in the Philippines basketball mirrors the society is nothing new. But he gives it a fresh look, the view of a worm, as it were, which sees that beneath the fun and thrill, the sport has evolved a pathos of irony and sadness. He exposes on the Sputers vs Metro celebrities games, a parody, he surmises, conjured as a well-intentioned civic project by a Cebu radio station has schools would soon sink into a pit-mace-inducing spectacle of cultural insensitivity. But its popularity has gone so viral particularly across the southern islands (Sad tis greatest are the kidding of expecting it to overseas Filipino communities. It's like the Harlem Globetrotters show, except than the venues are, on one side, the boiling lot Bartholomew, having acquainted himself in local parish, retreat of the Shores, and on the other, the streets (the Squats). Bartholomew, marveled in politically correct America, witness at the craziness of it all, but with his the Philippine context, he does not pass judgement.

When not in the local locker room or in the coliseum watching games, he

TURN TO

Philippine PEN to launch 'Literary Life' anthology July 31

THE PHILIPPINE Center of PEN (**Poets and Playwrights, Essayists, Novelists**) International, with the Manila Times, will launch "Literary Life," the first of a series of anthologies of stories, poems and essays from the literary section of the Sunday Times Magazine, on July 31, 5 p.m., at Solidaridad bookshop on Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila.

The anthology contains the work of 40 authors including **National Artists Jose Garcia Villa, NVM Gonzalez and F. Sionil Jose; the Ramon Disay V Diaz, Basil R. Ingles, Virginia Moreno, Elsie Santamorena, Pacifico Aposino, Adrian Cristobal, Andres Cristobal Cruz, Alejandrino G. Hufana, Eliseo Pranesca; PEN members and friends Rimonna Sison, Asela Rivera Nerl, Ninotchka Rosca, Lamberto Ayala, Lilia Ramos de Leon, Rita Aguilar, Celicia Guillermo, Jessie Aguinaldo, Trevino Dionisio, Susie Tan, Lina Sagaral Reyes, Joan Edades; writers Edmund Ephraim San Juan, Jim Torres, Paolo Manalo, Gode Cellicia, Emerito Espinola, John Edwin Cowen, Anthony Mott; Fil-Am writers Rodolfo del Rosario, Victorio Mauliin writer Nasser Shamir], and writers from the academe Jose Cruz, Alfonso Dreson Fernandez, Tomas Tallada, Edel Garcellano, Mark Gerald Brown and Lay-Joo Lagumen Lilt.**

According to Elmer A. Ordonez, literary editor and columnist of the Manila Times, the "Literary Life" anthology is representative of various styles of fiction, poetry and essay writing from established and rising writers. They also provide insights into the writers' milieus, he said.

The initial anthology contains works from the Time the Sunday Times Magazine literary section was revived in 2006 to 2007. Some of the works earlier published (but no longer accessible) are reprinted in this anthology. With new works, the anthology can be useful as reference or text in English subjects at high school and college levels.

"Literary Life" is the latest in the Manila Times books series which include the English grammar books of Jose Cutillo and the novel 'In War's End" by Rony V. Diaz. Book lovers are welcome to the launching.

Ka-Negosyo EXPO

Highlights Business Growth of Negosyantes

BPI Family Savings Bank's fortified drive to heighten the businesses of Filipino entrepreneurs is rooted from the brilliant's campaign, "let's make it easy", manifested through BPI Family Ka-Negosyo Business Expo. Their initiatives are headed towards innovative business solutions and strategic partnerships with trusted institutions in the country.

On July 8, 2010, BPI Family Ka-Negosyo Business Expo officially marked the start of its partnership with the Association of Filipino Franchisees, Inc. (AFFI), to signify the bank's strengthened initiatives to make life easier for and help in the growth of the business of Negosyantes. To officially commence the partnership, they have put together the Ka-Negosyo Expo, an afternoon filled of franchise opportunities, exclusive deals and business talk at the SMX Intl. As committed partners of Negosyantes, BPI Family Ka-Negosyo Business Center has also given their clients privileges to avail the one-time Zero Collateral Loan and Business Insurance Bundle.

BPI Family Savings Bank's new President, Mr. Eli Jaricanca and AFFI's President, Mr. Paulo Ubing, led the opening of the Ka-Negosyo Expo and launch of Ka-Negosyo Business Insurance Bundle.

To learn more about BPI's Ka- Negosyo Business Tools, visit a BPI Family Savings Bank branch near you, call 754-NEGO, text BPI<KEYWORD>/BPI<KEYWORD> or email kanegosyo@bpi.com.ph.

BPI Family Ka-Negosyo Business Center

AFFI

"Symbolic gesture of enabling entrepreneurs" from left to right: Francis Glenn Yu, VP for Activities AFFI; Paulo Ubing, President AFFI; Eli Jaricanca, President BPIFB; Lindsay Rocke, VP and Head of Commercial Loans Division BPIFB

From left to right: Herbert Tuason, VP Loans Product Marketing BPIFB; Mon Lopez, Exec Director, Go Negosyo; Paulo Ubing, President AFFI; Jony Concepcion, Founding Member, Go Negosyo; Lindsay Rocke, VP and Head of Commercial Loans Division BPIFB and Eli Jaricanca, President BPIFB

Eli Jaricanca, President BPIFB

Paulo Ubing, President AFFI and Eli Jaricanca, President BPIFB unveil Jenny Imbuscao-Al Bishry's Libaas Musical.

Eli Jaricanca, President BPIFB and Paulo Ubing, President AFFI on the ramp at the City South.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

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INSIDE

Off to Disney for their b'days? Sneak Peek /D6

"You are an inspiration to us. I hope that I will be like you - a very good public speaker."
- Marcus Arvisu

BIG BROTHER NUMBER 5 Study at:
VERMON TAPALLA'S 12TH Year

Buboy still reaching out to manager

I MMMMMISS enjoyed bonding with my BFF Gozer Montecer and Ate Ash sadly, Sweetdreme Erica, at their entry, thrilleritos. Bellaire may be high spirits, in spite of her ongoing tiff with her ever manager Norma Sepiterra.

"She feels there was a disrespect. Actually, it's a misconception," explained Gwen. "She knew I was signing up with GMA 7. She spoke on the phone a few days before I went to GMA.

"Si Ate Norma pong mama ko sabi Star Circle, I asked permission from the big bosses of ABS-CBN na bilgar muna ko sa Isabela kasi wala pa silang plans for me. I couldn't just sit and wait; I have a family to provide for.

"I have been crying to contact Ate Norma, to no avail. Ang magkausap kami nung Sunday. Before I talk with Piolo, kasi nasa dapat si Ate Norma ang magkausap. Kaso kasi sabala siya wala akong plano for her as employer ko sa GMA.

"Most of my sabi nga, kahit ako ang nag-deal, nilagpit ko pa rin sa kanya para may share siya. Pwedeng yung pinagsamahan namin ng 26 years. Pero[illegible] sa mundo siya sa of all people akala ko siya ang unang makakaintindi why I have to seek greener pastures for the sake of my family."

Suggestion

I also love Tita Norma. She practically mothered me grow up. I hope she doesn't mind my suggesting that the go easy on Buboy, who hasn't fully bounced back from two consecutive tragedies—the death of his son Angelo and his loss in the elections.

Tita Norma should just stick to the issues. It's absurd that she even brought up Buboy's guest role in "Sinungaling Mong Puso." Why would Buboy want to be the host of a show that's not identified with him? Besides, Buboy and Willie Revillame go back a long way so he would not dare snatch Willie's show away. If there's any show he would like to host again, it's "Singing Bee," which spawned

BUBOY, D2

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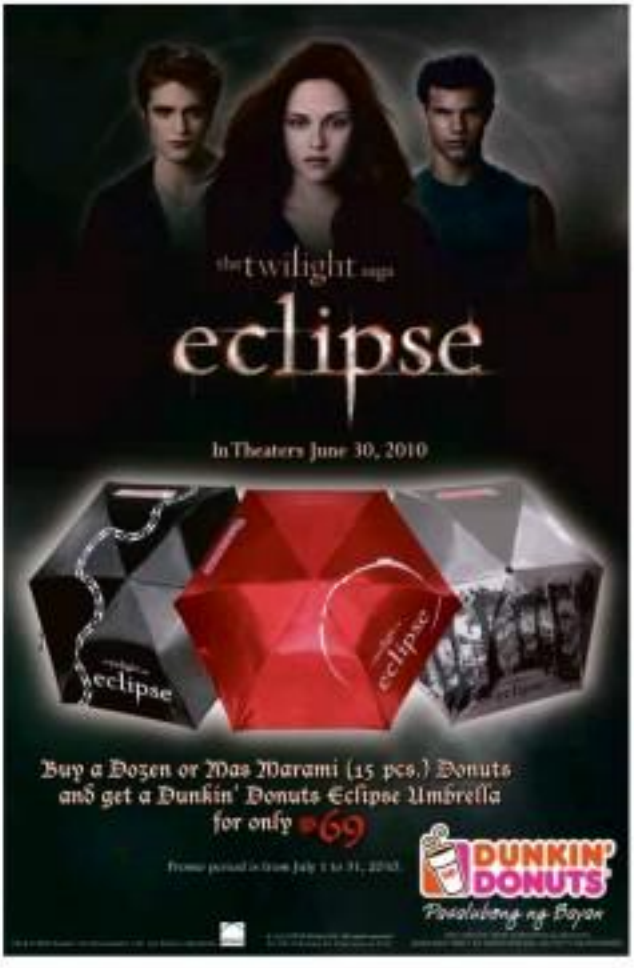

GARFIELD

A. LIPPH

PUGAD BARDY

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LOVE KNOTS

JAMES BOND

DRINK COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULDOR

BEN

BIKO MACHINE

SHARMAN'S LAGOON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Relationships, especially romantic relationships, are full of all kinds of surprises today. Some of these surprises could be pleasantly serendipitous or downright irritating.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) No matter how weird things are at work right now (and they are different), you feel satisfied about exactly how to deal with your private life today. Family is a source of joy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Even though things are stressful at a lot of jobs on the home front, you feel optimistic today. Communication is your game. You are feeling forward to new ventures.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're not your humble cynical, mean self today. You're more like Mother Teresa or Mr. Rogers. Maybe you're feeling guilty about something you've been doing.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You're encouraged about many plans, anything having to do with higher education or publishing and media opportunities. Things are going your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) A deep inner satisfaction is yours today. Not content with yourself and more content with the world. Generally, things are not perfect. They're never perfect. But you're satisfied.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is a productive day. You are not often in an upbeat energy. In this up-to-par? Group situations and meetings will go well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have a wonderful opportunity today. Someone knows, suspects, believes and wishes. Pursue it without hesitation. Use your charm and your intelligence to your advantage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Work any opportunity that comes your way today to travel or explore some of the world. Some of you are making a choice to study more or take a course that will help further your education. It's diligent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Many of you will benefit from the wealth or resources of others today. Friends are generous to you. Lucky day, apparently. Just don't push it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Relationships, partners and close friends are greatly improved today. A mutually beneficial plan, and take a heavy enough. (That's nice.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Sometimes it's an opportunity would now better. You can get a better job, better partner or better lover. Your health also is significant.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

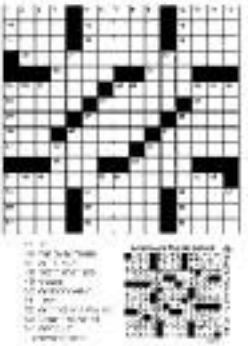
2	8	1	5	4	6	3	9	7
4	5	7	9	8	3	6	2	1
6	9	3	2	7	1	5	4	8
3	8	9	6	5	2	1	7	4
1	2	6	3	7	4	8	5	9
5	7	4	8	1	9	2	3	6
1	6	8	4	3	5	7	9	2
9	4	2	7	6	8	5	1	3
7	3	5	1	9	2	4	6	8

Concepts Sudoku By Mel Taylor

2					9	6		
		5	7					
	9		3	2				8
	8	9	6	5				4
		7				5		
6				4	1	9	3	
1				3	2		9	
					5	7		
		4	9					3

Difficulty Level ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Buboy . . .

From page D-1

now down to him.

I sincerely hope they patch things up soon. Knowing Buboy and Thai Nova, when they finally get to talk, what they would argue about is who loves the other more.

Angelo's eyes

On a lighter note, Buboy and Jhiro were moved when they got Jhiro e-mail. It only goes to show that Buboy's late son, Angelo, was watching over his family, especially now that they are in the eye of a storm.

"My wife Camille is in Sacsibel for a bullet duster. Jhiro and she is now with one of her investors, Tita Lydia Gaston. Tita Lydia started losing her eyesight a few years back and had been suffering because of it for the past three years. Still, she pushed on, watching young ballet dancers, trying her best to save them a horrible fate and pain on her knowledge, but knowing that she was losing the battle.

"Then a few months ago she underwent an eye operation to replace her cornea, and it's been nothing short of a miracle. She can now see again. And more importantly for her, she can now watch again. She has gained back her confidence ... gained back her life.

"Next year, Tita Lydia will be celebrating her 50th year as a mother of young dancers. Her past students who have gone on to big, yet still bright careers will come back to perform in a recital in Tita Lydia's honor in Resorbid in August. She would like to invite your whole family.

"I am telling you this because someone had to give her the gift of a new life, the gift of the cornea. And that someone is your own son, Angelo. Thank you for your family's generosity and boundless capacity for love.—Hong"

The Powers

Saturday nights will be filled with live action adventures and the zany misadventures of an ordinary family with extraordinary powers on GMA 7's newest sitcom, "Kaya Ng Powers," (after "Un Ores Weekend").

Top-billed by Joey Marquez as Dr. Robert Powers, it also stars Rufa Mae Quinto as his wife Stephanie and children Shiran Ramos as Hillary, Shorsie Wadhi as Shaleen and Elmo Magalona as Gavin.

Dr. Powers is a famous scientist who has discovered a secret formula that can transform any person into a superhero. His apprentice Ronald, played by Boom Wally, sabotages his experiment. In tabold pero ay to a greater degree of evil.

Power up, Kapuso!

E-mail: asaering.bulletin@gmail.com

NOW ON DISC

CANNES Best Director winner Guillaume Mendoza's films "Serbis," "Tandoy" and "Shimmy" are now available on video through Viva Communications. Some Inc. Other Mendoza films already in video stores are "Manahimik," "Kubrador" and "Thanksgiving." Also now on CD and DVD is "Working Girls 2010," directed by Jose Javier Reyes, sequel of Ishmael Bernal's landmark '80s movie, "Working Girls."

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3 INCEPTION
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER
5 KATIBO KAPATID
6 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
7 CINCO
8 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
9 AMIGO
10 INCEPTION / PREMIERE

MANILA — METRO EAST

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3 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER
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6 KATIBO KAPATID
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
1 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
2 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
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5 KATIBO KAPATID
6 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
7 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
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1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 KATIBO KAPATID
3 INCEPTION
4 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
5 KATIBO KAPATID

DASMARIÑAS — STARMILLS

1 THE LAST AIRBENDER
2 CINCO
3 KATIBO KAPATID
4 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
5 INCEPTION
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 INCEPTION
3 CINCO
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 KATIBO KAPATID
6 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

IMUS — ANGELES

1 KATIBO KAPATID
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 THE LAST AIRBENDER
4 CINCO
5 INCEPTION
1 KATIBO KAPATID
2 CINCO / INCEPTION
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
4 THE LAST AIRBENDER

TACLOBAN — DUMAGUETE

1 INCEPTION
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 KATIBO KAPATID
1 CINCO / INCEPTION
2 KATIBO KAPATID
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
3 CINCO
4 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE
5 INCEPTION
6 KATIBO KAPATID
1 THE LAST AIRBENDER (Digital 3D)
2 KATIBO KAPATID
3 THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE
4 INCEPTION
5 CINCO
6 THE TWILIGHT SAGA: ECLIPSE

GENSAN

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Exceptional portrayals in Cinemalaya's New Breed features

FIRST THINGS FIRST: The recent sixth Cinemalaya film festival fairest on participating first-year watch try new directors. It had Shelly, Bil Portes and Marlo O'Hara, among others.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

However, we don't agree with the festival's decision to hand out awards for this category for the simple reason that these aren't full-length films. Malaysia is not environment.

Last Pen, who won first Actress for "Sheydan," also turns in an impressive and focused performance, but we feel Irma Adlawan is "Ars Pagsili" came up with a portrayal that had more range and greater depth, despite its occasional "muginess."

Quiet but riveting

Best Supporting Actress Sta. IJ Reyes was softly quietly but deeply moving in The Love Affair," but we don't agree with the decision to cite Emilio Garcia as Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of the main suspect in "Babae," because his sometimes-too-quiet mumbled delivery is a distraction, and his movie-star persona wasn't sufficiently subdued into the role.

If we had our druthers, the award should have gone to either Jose Abad Santos in Roeder Consuling in "Ars Pagsili," because they came up with more original and insightful portrayals.

The New Breed movies featured quite a number of other potentially "awardable" performances that similarly deserve to be highlighted. The "tough" little child actress in "Tikbo," Blanka Isabel Lopez in the same film, director Gandle in "Ars Pagsili," some of the young trainees in "Bekas," etc. Perhaps an "ensemble" award could be added next year?

On the other hand, we must note a negative tendency to present characters who simply go through life's motions in a sort of dull, unemotional psychological daze.

GenSan boys slay 'Showtime' foes

By Rayani San Diego Jr.

THREE of a dancing Pac Man, Times 13. That would be the XB Gentlan Dancers group, first big winners of the ABC-CBN morning talent search, "Showtime."

The boys from General Santos City, South Cotabato won with a score of 9.875 from 40 judges, including comedian Jose Mari Chan, beauty queen Priscilla Meirelles, talent manager Aggy, sisters Jeannie and Alessandra de Asser and husband-and-wife Dr. Josephine Bunsay and Charlie Fergus.

Almost all the judges gave the group a perfect 10. (There gave a nine; one an eight.)

For the film, it was a tough, nine-month journey from the city that also gave the world boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, to the Fourex Center in Antipolo, where the final round was held.

With their stark but shimmering Visayan accent and rough-hewn physique sculpted by hard labor, the XBs were clear crowd favorites, underdogs that delivered.

Of course, was surface ethnocentrism as the weekly round. They made it to the finals only after the wild-card round last week.

"When they came back, there was something different in them," recalled host Kim Atienza, one of the judges in the wild-card round. "We felt their hunger, their passion."

"We felt bad when we first lost," the group's leader, Jan Robert Acharon, told the Inquirer. "We thought we'd never make it in a contest in Luzon. We were thankful for that second chance. We rehearsed and trained very hard. We jogged for hours every morning."

Universally Philippine Islands Assassin of Marbleing, the troupe then ousted XB Gentlan's elimination, landed to second place (with a 9.7 score). Third player was Boys Unlimited Dem Pangalinan (9.6625).

"With a combination of Scottish highland and Maori war dance moddiness," said Atienza, the XB Dancers usually hosted 30 orders (5 males), among them ballroom dancing-idol Jhon (Savannah Kibi) and a hand-stone troupe Bodyblessed Black Theatre Group).

Goosebumps

"From before XB Gentlan started moving, I got goosebumps," Atienza exclaimed. "Their stage presence was amazing."

"That dancing really is a world.

All-Gentlan Dancers: Yesterday's losers, today's champs.

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3 INCEPTION PG-13 12:00, 3:20, 6:30, 9:40
4 SORCERER'S APPRENTICE 1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 8:40
HATING KAPATID 2:00, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
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Marian, Dong: Why it pays to be two of a kind

By Marinel R. Cruz

MARIKINA, MANDALUYONG—"We have the same taste in food, except for his penchant for exotic dishes. He likes fried tarantulas and crawling pests," said actress Marian Rivera in Tagalog, while sharing shrimp gyoza tempura and lapang (shrimp paste) with boyfriend Dingdong Dantes.

We were in the sprawling Cannon Cove Resort, where Imperium Entertainment was treating the cast and reallife couple out for one set of the GMA 7 drama series "Endless Love." Marian had taken a break and just finished a sandwich when the plates of tempura were served. "We always dive out the cream from bad bread. We both like hamon with cork ads. Dapat ang tatag nun ads," she said, Dingdong also had a small serving of cashew nuts.

Talking eyes

Marian said liking the same things helped her and Dong become affectionate as a couple. She explained: "We are able to better help one another. We can talk with our eyes. One look, and I know what he means."

"Endless Love" is about Johnny (Ding dong) and Jenny (Marian), who grew up thinking they were siblings. Their lives are disrupted when they learn of a baby-switching case in the hospital where Jenny was born.

"It's tough playing Jenny," Marian admitted. "It's like her, I'm not the type to keep quiet when treated unfairly. Ding put it succinctly: 'Walking on thorny stepping-stones.'"

Ian director Mac Alejandre, the challenge in creating the local adaptation of a Korean hit series is not in "Filipinizing" the story. "It's how to keep the viewers on Rivera-tional journey. It could be so haunting," he said.

He was shooting "Endless Love" the way he would a feature film, Alejandre said, especially in scenes that required "capturing the nuances of an emotion." He once made Marian do a scene from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., just walking along a corridor, he said. "I made her walk again and again, but while supervising different feelings."

Sharik Peek

Director de Belen confirmed the two-year-old romance of Marian Rivera Dantes. Ian, she added, is a "very good friend" of Dingdong Dantes.

Fashionable character

Dennis Trillo, who plays Jenny's adopted sister Andrew Jimenez, said he was just getting used to portraying a wealthy and fashionable character. "Ang mga eder ko pudgying makeup na sa. Mas I have a stylist, Dik Mariano. He dresses me up in trendy clothes," said Dennis, who was in a pin-striped button-down shirt and a pair of khaki pants.

In fact, he was here at 7 a.m. prepared to do over 20 scenes. He had done half of that at the time of this interview. "A leisurely takes so much of an actor's time. It's tiring, really. But I loved mine—that I'm just happy to be working," said the award-winning actor, who has a 3-year-old son, Calix.

Typhoon casualty

"Jenny" was how Sunshine classmates said she left. Sunshine plays Johnny's sister Shirley Gimon. One of the things she was working on that day was a kissing scene with Dennis.

"I will say him in the corridor crying, and then, and then subsequent film," the 22-year-old related. "I've never done that, so it's making me very nervous."

"We're a few days behind because of the recent typhoons," said Alejandre. He had come from two other locations—at the Tagaytay Ridge for scenes with Dingdong, and at the nearby town plaza to work with Lesley Espiritanay, who plays Jenny's abusive brother-in-law.

Birthday-off

"I won't work on Aug. 2," we heard Marian telling one of the production managers. "It's Ding's birthday." Dingdong turns 30 then; she will be 26 on Aug. 13.

"I hope to go somewhere with him to celebrate our birthdays," the lucky actress said beforehand. "It's a place for him...For however anywhere with him, but not daughter."

Disneyland? Either her mother said no, we get Dani right.

E-mail mymarine@inquirer.com.ph

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK
On the set of GMA 7's "Endless Love," from the top Dennis Trillo and Nadine Samonte before a take; short and (wide) break for Marian and Dong Dantes and Bernard Palanca
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARINEL R. CRUZ

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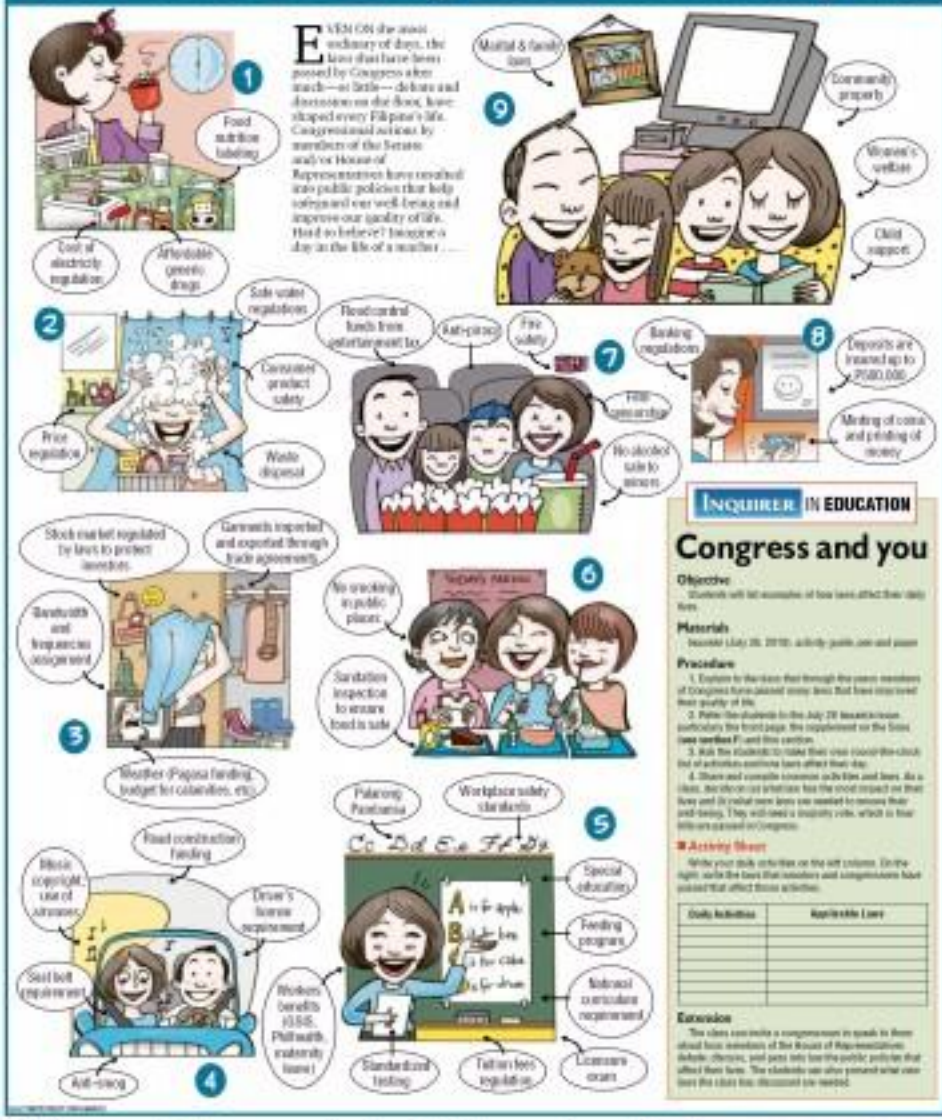
How acts of Congress affect daily life



INQUIRER IN EDUCATION

Congress and you

Objective

Students will list examples of how laws affect their daily lives.

Materials

Inquirer (July 26, 2010), activity guide, pen and paper

Procedure

1. Explain to the class that through the years members of Congress have passed many laws that have improved their quality of life.
2. Refer the students to the July 26 issue of Inquirer, particularly the front page, the supplement on the State (**see section F**) and this section.
3. Ask the students to make their own round-the-clock list of activities and how laws affect their day.
4. Share and compile common activities and laws. As a class, decide on one which has the most impact on their lives and (if valid) one laws we wanted to remove their use/s being. They will need a majority vote, which is how bills are passed in Congress.

Activity Sheet

Write your daily activities on the left column. On the right, write the laws that members and congressmen have passed that affect those activities.

Daily Activities	Applicable Laws

Extension

The class can invite a congressman to speak to them about how members of the House of Representatives debate, discuss, and pass only laws the public policies that affect their lives. The students can also present what laws the class has discussed so needed.

'Txt msge' tells parents their kids are in school

DO YOU KNOW where your kids are? Claret parents do.

Starting this school year, parents of Claret School students in Quezon City will feel a little more confident that their children are safely inside the campus.

A new system has been developed jointly by Globe and Sun Cellular's Infinitage Text service that lets parents know when their kids are in school.

By swiping their identification cards in a machine at the gate, students automatically inform their parents they have entered the school. Parents get a short message service (SMS) alert or text.

Parents are routinely informed that their children have exited the gate when they swipe their IDs after classes.

Powered by the Sun Cellular network, the system delivers information in real time. The free Message Cast may also be used to send reminders and notifications when classes are suspended and announce upcoming activities or events.

Paola Marilyn Nicolas, Claret network engineer, said students were becoming more disciplined because of the service. Claret school principal Ramon Jimenez said not only did Sun offer reasonable rates, but the network met all the school's requirements.

The Message Cast is open to all parents, whether or not they are Sun subscribers.

Ronnel Zen, Sun Cellular corporate solutions senior manager, said the system was a web-based application that allowed the sending of SMS across all networks.

For more information about the Message Cast, contact the Sun Cellular corporate sales and solutions at 5403765, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. To know more about Sun's other products and services, log on to www.sunbiz.com.ph or follow them at Twitter. Visit www.facebook.com/sunbiznews.

AS SOON as a Claret student swipes his ID, his parents are notified via SMS.

SUN CELLULAR'S Hutch Alberto, (business solutions manager), Ronell Jan (corporate solutions senior manager), Corinne Zaldarriaga (corporate sales AVP), with Claret School's Fr. Santiago Gonzalez, CMF (Korean school director), Anabel Valencia (finance officer), Rosario Bolarano (information & communications technology department head), and Michael Barrozo (SQL programmer)

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St. Augustine School: Learning through 'Pinoy Care'

As AH institution that never ceases to seek new ways to serve the less privileged, St. Augustine Schools and Colleges continues to uphold its commitment to improve the lives of many Filipinos.

Leading the way in giving "Pinoy Care", St. Augustine School not only provides better prospects for its graduates through in-demand courses offerings but reaches out to communities through free medical assistance.

Aside from its Nursing, Practical Nursing and Caregiving, St. Augustine's new programs in Wellness and Hospitality Management responds to the demands of the global market for graduates of hospitality, wellness and medical courses.

All these programs aim to promote socio-responsibility through active community participation. Students are not only tasked to fulfill course requirements that aim to equip them with appropriate learning experiences they need to succeed in future healthcare professionals but provide them with the opportunities to serve others through first-hand healthcare delivery.

St. Augustine takes a more aggressive stance by offering a new program on Wellness and Hospitality Management. As the name implies, it

assays and actively engaged in social and civic activities. The medical missions have been a part of the institution's undertakings and are among the different community outreach activities, with its doctors, nurses and students in the various medical and health programs volunteering and serving to depressed or disaster-stricken communities. Medical teams regularly visit these communities and render free medical assistance, feeding programs, disease-awareness drives, blood-letting, healthcare orientation, among others.

For details, please call 373-3991 local 8277 or visit www.staug.edu.ph.

LPU holds 1st Laurel Cup Football Tournament

LYCEUM OF the Philippines University (LPU) College of Law (COL) students organized the inaugural Laurel Cup football tournament held recently at the Fort Bonifacio Army Services Command (Asscom) football Grounds. In all, 23 teams competed in the men's division, while 6 groups vied for the women's side. The Asscom Victory Team are the men's champions, while Kanchi Football Club reigned the women's division. Other finalists include the Grey Mice, Stallions Football Club (Men's 2nd and 3rd place, respectively), Grandheirs football Club and LC Football Club Malabog (Women's 2nd and 3rd, accordingly). COL dean Sol Maria and vice-dean Angela Tiu-gan were also present to cheer on the teams and deliver the opening and welcome remarks. Organized by COL's Francis Du (with the help of other LPU football players), Jeremy Pascual, Tanto Chua and Ryan Ferrer, the tournament is a landmark for the LPU-Bel Operations this September.

UP to represent Philippines at GBC World Finals

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Diliman recently won the bonding of the Global Business Challenge (GBC) held at the Century Interim Hotels, Manila. Dubbed as the Grams Consultancy Finals, the four students from UP will represent the country for the first time at the Global Business Challenge Finals in Rocket camper, Malaysia, on Aug. 1 and 2. The group is composed of Ms. Mae Villanueva, Ms. Maria Serena Dimaya, Andrew Mallari and Gregory Sarmiento led by their mentor, Prof. Arthur Salindo Jr. The GBC, now on it second year, is organized by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (Cima). It is an international business management competition designed to bring out the best in potential business leaders among young people. The competition is open to full-time undergraduates at public or private colleges and universities ideally from a finance or business background. For more information on Cima and the GBC, interested parties may get in touch with Cima Philippines, through VGR Executive Program Management Inc. (with) 478-5451 or e-mail info@vdx-xpm.com or philippines@cimaglobal.com.

UC, AIT hold computer applications seminar

THE UNIVERSITY of the Cordilleras College of Engineering and Architecture (UC CEA) has partnered with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand to organize an international CAD engineering Seminar, as one of its life-long education programs. The "Computer Applications in Civil and Structural Engineering" seminar was held in the UC Auditorium and became the first in-house student-and-faculty-based seminar-as-speaker exercise. Dr. Anwar is the director for Asian Center for Engineering Computations and Software (Ascecs) and an adjunct professor at the School of Engineering of AIT. He presented the latest practice in computing technology and computing tools and software in Structural Engineering. He also discussed the theories behind the applications and presented how graphic visualization works with 2D and 3D imaging. The seminar was partially funded by the Commission on Higher Education grants and computer applications laboratory.

US anthropologist updates on Perinatal HIV/AIDS

SOUTHVILLE INTERNATIONAL School and Colleges recently held the first Nursing Development Program of the College of Nursing that featured Ms. AIDS research expert, Dr. Jessica Scott Jenkins. Dr. Jenkins's latest work on "Perinatal HIV/AIDS in Brazil and the U.S.: Human Rights-Based Approach to Health Policy" was presented to around three hundred BSN and BS Psychology students and faculty members of Southville. Short talks to be delivered by experts in the nursing and psychology field such as the latest in the world opinions and technology including stem cell research, spirit of community volunteerism, and environmental conservation program presentations are already lined up. For inquiries about the upcoming events, please call The Nursing Department at 809-4374 loc. 109 and look for Susan Agustin.

CLSU gets 5th center of excellence recognition

CENTRAL LUZON State University is now Center of Excellence (COE) in three programs. The latest addition to its four-decology (CEA) is the bachelor of science in nursing. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) declared the said COE status to CLSU, through its College of Education (CEA), last July 15 in ceremonies held at the CHED Office in Diliman, Quezon City. CLSU-Chico one of just two CCEs among 182 bachelor education institutions in Central Luzon and is among 17 CEOs nationwide. First recognized as a Center of Development in 1997, it held such status for several years. To recall, the agriculture and fisheries programs of CLSU retained their COE status while its civil engineering and agricultural Engineering programs bred Best Centers CEO in early 2008. The Fisheries Program at the university, on the other hand, is the lone COE in the country. According to president Ruben C. Sevilleja, CLSU, on the whole, belongs to the short list of universities in the entire country with five or more Centers of Excellence.

Feati University hosts 2nd season of ISAA

THE SECOND season of the Inter-Scholastic Athletic Association (ISAA) finals will last Friday, July 23 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Manila. With the theme "Building future Legends: Conquering New Heights", the ISAA season 2 will be highlighted by some of the Philippines' basketball legends and former Pacific Rim Junior Hobby-captain Jeffrey de Leon and player Alvin Patrimonio. ISAA is hosted by member-schools which aim to promote excellence and sportsmanship through sports. Within this season's host Feati University, other founding member-schools include La Consolacion College Manila, Lyceum of the Philippines University, Manila, Adventist Medical Center and Colleges, Manila Doctor's College, Philippine Women's University and Southville International Schools and Colleges.

TIP Manila, QC honor service awardees

IN RECOGNITION of its teaching and non-teaching employees who have served the school for 10, 15 and 20 years, the Technological Institute of the Philippines Manila and Quezon City recently held the TIP Service Awards Program. Plaques of Recognition were distributed to the service awardees by TIP president Dr. Elizabeth E. Lanuz awarded by vice president for human resources Ramon de Leon and vice president for administration and student services Angelita G. Bolivar. The TIP Manila Service Awardees were Melba P. Gabon, Elsie F. Legaspi, Lourdes E. Mendoza, Clarita N. Racmayan, and Emilia P. Salas, 25 years; Avenir T. Fernandez and Rosario A. Hernandez, 15 years, and Josie Hodinga G. Carbonell, Enrico F. Chavez, Gerardo C. Ribaldo, Proserfo S. Marquez, Jasmin S. Nigoldola, and Eric L. Padilla, 10 years. The TIP Quezon City Service Awardees were Ma. Teresa B. Adriano, Rose P. Pellano, and Milagros S. Ibanez, 35 years; Jocelyn T. Arrollas, 15 years; and Jeannie Pia A. Cayanan, Andrea S. Reyes, Allan D. Go, Rianna Ann V. Laguidao, Lara I. Rosa, Imelda B. Roy, and Imelda B. Pedia, 10 years.

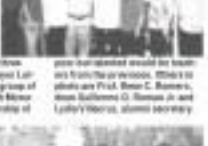
MENDIOLA CONSORTIUM INAUGURATES PEACE ARCH

The historical Mendiola District is the usual place for assemblies and rallies due to its proximity to the Malacañang Palace but the street is also home to several inspiring institutions. Assemblies sometimes go out of hand resulting to violent confrontations between protesters and policemen compromising the safety of students. The Mendiola Consortium, an organization composed of the schools located in the vicinity of Mendiola Street (Centro Escolar University, San Beda College, La Consolacion College Manila, College of the Holy Spirit Manila, and St. Jude Catholic School), decided to take action and promote a culture of peace. Thus, the Mendiola Peace Arch was declared a peace zone. To complete the transformation of a violent zone,

the idea of having a Peace Arch was conceptualized. On June 21, the Mendiola Peace Arch was inaugurated and the gates were finally opened. Photo shows CEU president Dr. Ma. Cristina Padolina and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim leading the ceremonial ribbon-cutting of The Mendiola Peace Arch with the officials and members of the Mendiola Consortium.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING OF PNUGAA

Officers of Philippine Normal University Alumni Association (PNUGAA) led by Dr. Rudy Bermudez, Dr. Rosita Sabong of JSE and Dr. Reynaldo Dado (centre of line) hold chat with PNU officials to plan projects for PNU in the next three years. PNU president Ramon Lafe de R. Bacho cited the group of retiring nurses at the Tondo Medical Health Project and scholarship of



poor non-talented would be loans for PNU to pay as income. Others in photo are Prof. Bevic C. Bonero, dean Guillermo G. Remus Jr. and Lydia Villacruz, alumni secretary.

SOCA UNVEILS KULAYAWAN FESTIVAL MURAL

As part of St. Scholastica College of Arts's commitment towards preservation and promotion of Filipino culture, among Dumaguete students, the arts community recently unveiled the Kulayawan Festival Mural located at the SSCA lobby. Kulayawan Festival is the official festival of the institution which showcases the talent, creativity and abilities of the students in performing and other cultural activities. Shown in front of the Kulayawan Mural are the following (from left): Glenn Garcia -

faculty associate SSCA; Prof. Corazon Bernardo - chair, Center for Guidance Services; Rev. Gerardo St. Matilda - Office of Student Life director; Prof. Alejandro D. Sagarbarria Jr. - dean, SSHSM; Dr. Aaron G. Ang - dean for academics; Dr. Mary Wella T. Yosa - SSNAHS Dean; Sr. Gregorio A. Ibañez Jr. - chief operating officer; Gil Jennifer T. Arcilla - SSCA Alumni Association - chair; Dominican Ministry Office and Jonathan Villamor Ma. Rex, chair, Center for Student Leadership.

CIS appoints new elementary school principal

CEBU INTERNATIONAL School welcomes its new elementary principal, Ann Frew. Frew takes on the post of elementary school principal at Cebu International School beginning this school year. Prior to joining CIS she was the elementary principal at Long Bay Primary School in New Zealand. She joins the administration team at CIS with a strong background in international teaching. She holds a Master of Educational Administration and has more than 20 years of teaching and administration experience gained from years in schools in Italy, London and her home country New Zealand. Frew has been recognized for her energy, enthusiasm and focus which have resulted in positive outcomes in her previous organizations. Her leadership will bring a wealth of wisdom to this diverse community at Cebu International School.

San Beda College 2010 St. Benedict Service Awards

FOR THEIR significant contribution and involvement to the attainment of the goals and objectives, growth, and development of San Beda College, school administrators, faculty members, and non-teaching personnel were given special awards during the celebration of the Feast of St. Benedict held July 8. (R) Rev. Teresito Rb. H. Manzon, OSB, Abbot-chancellor; Very Rev. Dr. Aloysius A. Allenavan, OSB, Rector-president; Rev. Reinaldo V. Abarca, OSB, vice president for finance; Rev. Arsenio M. Manalastas, OSB, vice-president for services, and Professor Ricardo R. Pelo, MBA, CPA, vice president for academic affairs led the distribution of awards to these dedicated men and women who are considered San Beda College's greatest resources in the fulfillment of its mission as a Catholic Educational institution.

OMu's R&D Center wins research award

DR. JUDE L. Nuevo of the Research and Development Center of Our Lady of Fatima University along with professors Elaine Pascual, Michael Dino, and Marilyn Obod won the International Environment Research Award 2010. Institutional Category for their paper entitled, "Tullahan River Initiative project (TRIP): A Partnership in Saving our River, Saving our People" at the International Conference on Higher Education Research in Kigali City recently. OMu, recognized as a leader in river research and development program was invited to join the International Environment Research Award and the National Padyak International Research Impact Award organized by the Philippine Association of Institutions for Research (PAIR). The Tullahan River Initiative Project was fashioned in the wishlists for waterway. The research project conducted by OMu focuses on saving Metro-area's Tullahan River by analyzing the geochemistry, metabiotechnology, carcinogenicity, physical and chemicals to include organic compounds like as well as biodiversity of Tullahan River's water caused by irresponsible garbage disposal.

UP receives professorial chair, scholarships in actuarial science

MANILEÑE is sponsoring nearing this ever a professorial chair in actuarial science and several scholarships at the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman College of Science.

The five-year collaboration between Manulife and UP Diliman aims to increase the pool of talent in the actuarial field for the financial services industry by encouraging enrollment in the state university's actuarial science program.

Manulife will sponsor in 2010-2015 up to 11 undergraduate scholarships in BS Mathematics and two graduate scholarships in the Professional Masters in Applied Mathematics (PMAM) in MS Applied Mathematics Diploma Programs.

Career and scholarship funds donated by Manulife to the UP Diliman College of Science will be given to talented and deserving individuals through the Diliman Science Research Foundation Inc.

Arlene Brimo, president and chief executive officer of Manulife Philippines, said the company's approach to giving was oriented toward long-term benefits to the community where it operated.

He said they hoped to help develop the skills of professionals in the Philippines. The actuarial class and scholarship programs could assist in the professional preparation of students by developing their business and analytical skills, as well as improving their academic research capabilities and credentials.

The Manulife undergraduate scholarships are open to qualified freshmen and third year students at the UP Diliman College of Science.

Group and internship programs at Manulife Philippines and Manulife Business Processing Services will also be offered to interested students who have arrived to pursue an actuarial career in the financial services industry.

Dr. Sergio Cao, chancellor of UP Diliman, said the partnership with Manulife sets an "excellent example" of productive collaboration between industry and academia.

Gay Mills, senior vice president for global sourcing of Manulife Financial, said the company had a growing need for graduates in mathematics and student actuaries in the global shared service center at UP Ayala Science and Technology Park.

The partnership with the UP Diliman College of Science was an affirmation of the firm's commitment to invest in developing future leaders in the actuarial field.

New professorial chair at San Beda College

THE SAN BEDA Graduate School of Business established recently the Jesus Francisco Distinguished Professorial Chair in Environmental Management.

FRANCISCO

Jesse Rasico Bautista "Candoy" Roque is the first chair holder. He will hold the chair for academic year 2010-2011.

ADQUE

Named after outstanding Sedan Jesus "Chito" Francisco, president of Manila and chair and president of Manila Electric Inc., the professorial chair is the first in environmental management.

Francisco became an advocate of environmental care and protection after his retirement as president of the Manila Electric Company.

Roque shares Francisco's commitment to the care of the environment, which he believes should be every citizen's concern.

The San Beda dean also believes the academe should take the lead in educating the people about environmental protection and play a pro-active role in preserving nature. Roque is also an avid supporter of various green earth programs, as deputy speaker of the House of Representatives.

ATLAS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

St. Luke's Medical Center has launched the "Diagnostic Atlas of Selected Liver Diseases," a valuable guide for medical students, clinicians, radiologists and pathologists on liver diseases. Featured are original ultrasound computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) images, among others. Sophisticated authors (seated, L-R) Dr. Julio Gapas Cumatacs, Center for Liver Diseases; Dr. Rolando A. Lopez, Institute of Pathology (IP); Dr. Rafael S. Dans, MD; Dr. Irma David-Kasanan CT Scan; Dr. Carroll Roy, CT Scan; Dr. Amando Pio R. Pijano, IP; with (standing, L-R) Dr. Bernard F. Lim and Dr. James P. Santiago.

International Book Fair on Sept. 15-19

THE manila International Book Fair (MIBF), the biggest and longest-running book fair in the Philippines, will be held Sept. 15-19 at the SMX Convention Center.

More than three years, MIBF is a one-stop shop for local and foreign publishers, wholesalers, retailers, book lovers, collectors, librarians, authors and publishers' representatives.

It features book launches, dialogues with readers and authors book-related activities.

Students can avail of books at great lower than-in-bookstores, while teachers and school administrators can get the best prices for bulk purchases.

Kids also enjoy story-telling sessions, puppet shows, reading-related contests, robotic demonstrations, parade of characters' mascots and caption (costume play) of their favorite book characters.

Special sessions and workshops are also scheduled, as well as mini concerts and meet-and-greet sessions with authors and illustrators.

MIBF showcases the largest and most varied collection of Filipiniana (textbooks, educational supplements, general references, religious and inspirational titles, celebrity books, management books, Filipiniana, coffee table books, popular novels, children's books, comics or graphic novels, rare and hard-to-find titles, magazines, media and e-books, audiovisuals, teaching supplies and services, publishers' technology and travel materials.

Co-located at the MIBF is Info Expo, a trade fair for school materials, supplies, equipment and facilities. Other co-located events include SuperKids 2010 (Sept. 17-18, Function Room 3), an exciting and fun-filled day-long conference-cum-Activity for children's development, and Filipino Book Council's (Sept. 16-17, Function Rooms 1 and 2), and The Best of Asian (Sept. 19, Function Room 5), a festival featuring Asian literature, publishing, reading, connect and opportunities.

The SMX Convention Center is at Seashell Drive, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City. MIBF is organized by Primebooks Asia Inc. with Asian Graphic Arts Publishers, Distributors Inc., Book Development Association of the Philippines, Philippine Booksellers Association Inc., and Publishers Representatives Organization of the Philippines.

Call (02) 8888011 or 8904822 or e-mail bookfair@primebooks.asia.com.

Soccer mall tour ends today

MEDIOCRES celebrates the world's most popular sport through the nationwide Soccer Mania Mall Tour 2010. Mall visits today at the Robinsons Town Center Ilocos complete quite excitement, exercises, games and challenges such as the Juggle Challenge, Dribbling Competition, Goal Tee Goalie and Kick-for-a-Prize, all for free. Thirty consolation and soccer clinics hosted by professional coaches from Fullabers Pete Antonio, Neil Rocha, Shamal Villanueva and Charly Cabahug. The Mall Events Soccer Mania Mall Tour 2010 @ Ayala Malls is presented by Mr.Donut's Philippines, Ayala Malls, in cooperation with Zalo TV, 2010 NU 107, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Garber Textiles and Diamond. Call Events Philippines at 8551434.

Education can help solve the problem of poverty

EDUCATION can be a tool in reducing poverty in the country.

And reducing the incidence of poverty according to National Statistician Dr. Lolita Grat, would ease the pressure on the Philippines' valuable and finite natural resources.

Speaking before the 102nd general assembly of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Living of the Filipino (Fusl), Grat said the combined population growth rate the Philippines – the highest poverty rate in Southeast Asia. She added that the level of poverty in the country was still rising.

Grat said the continued population increase was a major contributor to the rapid depletion of marine and forest resources that made the Philippines one of the world's environmental and political trouble spots.

She noted that the unsustainable cutting of trees reduced the estimated 18 million hectares of forest cover in 1950 to the current less than five million hectares.

Overharvesting of marine resources through dynamite fishing, trawling and other destructive methods was wreaking havoc on the natural coral.

Grat said an information and education campaign complemented by alternative livelihood, could empower forest and coastal dwellers to protect natural resources to ensure sustainable use for food and income.

She cited as ongoing project in Mayoyao, Ifugao, where residents were designated stewards of bioresources for reforestation and conservation purposes.

Grat said the project provided residents with sustainable livelihood in agroforestry, like gathering and processing of honey and herbs.

She added that a healthy ecosystem could also bring money through ecotourism.

2011 USTHS Grand Alumni Homecoming set for Feb. 5

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas High School will have its grand reunion on Feb. 5, at the UST Plaza Mayor in Espana, Sampaloc, Manila. Theme of the homecoming is "Just can't get enough of high school!"

This UST high school alumni association Inc. and the Organizing Committee of the USTHS Grand Alumni Homecoming (GAH) invite every graduate to be part of USTHS GAH 2011. The homecoming is expected to be the biggest alumni event in UST history.

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Underchassis Mechanic P5,000/48hrs.

MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY
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Basic GASCAW (2D & 3D computer-controlled cutting of materials) P4,000/48hrs.
CNC Milling Programming P4,500/48hrs.
Lathe Machine Operation P7,000/48hrs.
Milling Machine Operation P7,000/48hrs.
Gas Welding, Cutting & Brazing P3,000/36hrs.
Welding Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) P5,000/72hrs.
Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW) P11,000/60hrs.

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Network of hearts and hands rebuilds flood-wrecked schools

By Stephen Montes A. Padilla
Contributor

NINE MONTHS after Typhoon "Ondoy" struck, residents of Barangay Banaba in San Mateo, Rizal, are still suffering from the devastation.

Even more disheartening is that many school buildings have been destroyed by the floods so students do not have classrooms and other appropriate places where some 30,000 residents can take classes.

Well, instead of simply lamenting their misfortune, according to the principal of Banaba Elementary School, residents of the barangay have worked together to begin rebuilding their community.

Principal Rosalia Tuazon said it was very heartwarming to see residents in the clearing task. In the spirit of bayanihan, the UNO Kapuso Foundation (UNOKF), the GMA 7 television network's humanitarian arm, has chosen Banaba Elementary School as one of the beneficiaries in its Kapuso School Rehabilitation (KSR) program.

With the support of GMAKF's technical partner, the Philippine Construction Associations (PCA), the KSR program plans to repair 35 classrooms in 28 schools to restore their functions heavily damaged by the back-to-back Typhoons Ondoy and "Pepeng." The schools have an average student population of 800 to 950.

On a recent Saturday, GMAT officers, employees and talents donned on overalls for, during their lay schedules, to help in the construction of a four-classroom, two-story building in Banaba.

Before construction started, the more than 100 GMA 7 volunteers organized themselves into groups to tackle 14 specific tasks, namely: excavating, concrete hollow blocks (CHB) laying, roof beam concrete pouring, concrete mixing, bit bending and shoring, back filling, steel and gravel shoring, CHB loading, carbon chipping, and barrier clearing and stockpiling.

The volunteers chose the group where they felt they could most thrive the most. Commenter RIEP Construction Company Inc. provided the tools.

In word, deed

GMAKF executive vice president and chief operating officer Carmela "Mel" Tiangco said, "We've been trying to instill in the minds of our employees that we are to honor God in word and deed. And in giving time to lesser ones just as much but also to deed."

True to her word, Tiangco donned a helmet and picked up a shovel to help mix sand, gravel and cement as other volunteers worked in the concrete mix for the building's construction.

Other volunteers worked on finishing touches, such as painting walls and installing doors and windows.

SINGER-Kuh Ledesma helps a mason.

HELPING HANDS-Kapuso volunteers.

BRILLIANCE Dina and Princess Magdiwang work with fellow Mason.

Besides Bayani Fernando and Dingdong Dantes, GMA 7 talents who helped in the construction were Jeff Arcilla, Jeff Gutierrez, Jeff Tuazon, Dion Ebarle, Dion Monsalve, Julius Pineda and Rafi Ledesma.

They patiently shoveled sand, hoisted CHBs and mixed cement—not their usual scripted roles, for sure. Even Kapuso Primetime Queen Marian Rivera-Dantes became another inside attendee to assist in the hostings, they looked good.

Some volunteers and residents couldn't help themselves and made the most out of break times by having short photo opportunities with the GMA 7 stars.

Well worth it

Even GMA's creative volunteers like Marie Elizabeth Servida and Carina May Dalisay, studio set coordinators, found it rewarding in their own way to help the community rebuild its school area nearby it.

GMAKF coordinated with the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Education to identify the schools that were most in need of assistance and to avoid duplication of efforts. Money for the project is drawn from Ondoy funds raised by the Kapuso network.

Initial 35 classrooms in 28 schools have been identified by GMAKF as hotbed sources. The schools are located in calamity-stricken provinces like the Ilocos provinces, Laguna, Benguet, Pangasinan and Rizal.

Construction and repair work on schools in Rizal have been going on since November last year, in addition to Banaba Elementary School, rehabilitation has also started in Barangka Elementary School, Calumpang Elementary School and Malanday Elementary School, both in Marikina; and Calumpit Elementary School, Rodriguez (formerly Montalban).

The other GMAKF beneficiaries include Wawa Elementary School, Don Domingo Capistrano Elementary School and Marcos Elementary School in Rizal; Culiat Elementary School in Quezon City; Tagpos Elementary School and Gulod Elementary School in La Union; Amampucao Elementary School, Barangka-Tuazon Elementary School, Bantayan Elementary School and San Gabriel Del Remedio Elementary School in Pangasinan; Ramon Magsaysay Central School in Barangka; Cutcut Elementary School, Alaminos Elementary School and Bating Primary School in Ilocos Norte; and Camp 30 Elementary School in Benguet.

And then, folks, is how show business for changed and is changing lives.

EMPLOYEES of GMAT at work at Banaba Elementary School

SCISSORS dance Ivory Tuazon and Ben Montenegro

RP makes history in math olympiad: Honors for everyone

(See of Income)

FOR THE FIRST TIME ever, all members of the Philippine team to the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) came home with honors.

At the 53rd IMO in Astana, Kazakhstan, held July 8-15, Carmela Antonette Lee of St. Jude Catholic School got a silver medal, while Kevin Arthur Ian Marcos of Quirino Bar Shark College and Zheng Rong Tan of Zamboanga Chong Hua High School received honorable mention.

Ian Jude Gomez, secondary professor of mathematics at Ateneo de Manila University, was team manager, while Elvin Mackenzie Ong, former IMO awardee, was deputy team leader.

Lee, Marcos and Zhengwan selected from more than 2,000 high school students nationwide who joined the Philippine Mathematical Olympiad (PMO). PMO finalists were pared down to those after a month-long rigorous training through the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Camp (MOSC) of Ateneo.

Effective

"The training we did this year was effective," Gomez said. "We introduced highly theoretical concepts like groups, integers and polynomials, and we asked the students to prove properties. Though we knew that these concepts wouldn't be covered in the IMO, these exercises trained the brain on how to use definitions and mull arguments."

Queenie A. Lee-Chua

Ong said, "We focused on being able to write proofs and, which were solved by such. We made it a point to point out to some of problems and solutions, so the students could solve similar problems. This eventually proved very useful for many questions in this actual IMO, which were solved by such. We made it a point to point out to some of problems and solutions, so the students could solve similar problems. This eventually proved very useful for many questions in this actual IMO, which were solved by such."

The contestants were high-level motivated, Ateneo Fund Inc. and training. Lee "trained by myself at home and in school during math class." She also prayed the nine-day novena to St. Jude Thaddeus.

Morris shared the importance of "perseverance and a great deal of hard work." Zheng solved at least one problem a day.

What made the performance of this year's team special? "Preparation and discipline," Gomez said. "The trainees emphasized to the students that they needed to do their very best to their strengths. The last trainee of a student is himself/herself."

Another factor was earlier and smarter training. "We're training younger students," Ong said. "Last year, Carmela already had training, so all the juniors she had, we were able to work on ... Given more time, we can expose the students more to IMO-style problems."

The training structure established worked well, Gomez said. "This is the best result we have had since we joined the IMO in 1988."

Most prestigious

The IMO is the most prestigious math festival for high school students in the world. The first IMO was held in Romania in 1959, with seven countries participating. It has since grown exponentially. More than 100 students from almost 100 countries joined the IMO this year.

Contestants must not be older than 20 years old, and must not have any postsecondary education. Each participant is only allowed to join in high school. The duration to solve three challenging problems within 4 1/2 hours on each of two consecutive days. A maximum of seven points are awarded for each correct solution, for a perfect score of 42.

Who got the awards at the IMO? Students who score at least 27 points receive a gold; those who get at least 21 points a silver, while those with at least 15 points a bronze.

Historically, medals are awarded to, at most, half of the contestants, with gold, silver and bronze in the ratio of 1:2:3. Around 1/12 of the students get honorable mention.

Lee, who got a silver and 1/4 of honorable mention, is proud to contestants who get full marks in at least one problem.

THE WINNING team counts via Palace of Independence in Astana, where the awarding and closing ceremonies were held: (L-R) Ian Gomez, Henry Wenn, Carmela Lee, Zheng Wa and Ben Ong

Exemplary performance

How difficult was the IMO this year? "Average," Gomez said candidly. "Two geometry problems, one algebra, one number theory and one combinatorics. One of the number theory problems was the most computational, so all of them got our geometry problems perfectly."

This is the problem our students used: Let P be a point inside the triangle ABC. The lines AP, BP and CP intersect the circumcircle Γ of triangle ABC again at the points K, L and M, respectively. The tangent to Γ at C intersects the line AB at S. Suppose that SC = SP. Prove that MK = ML.

Ong explained, "The easy questions (where we got almost all our points) were easier than before. But the hard questions were very hard even for the top countries. Silver contestants, our students, were confronted for how we can successfully expect them to."

The awarding of medals on the problems I could manage," Morris said. Apparently, this tactic worked well for the contestants.

This year, out of the 517 contestants, 47 received the gold medal, 104 the silver and 128 the bronze. Honorable mention was given to 188 others.

Lee received 21 points (three perfect scores of 7) for her silver. Morris 14 points (two perfect scores of 7) and Zheng 20 points (we perfect score of 7 plus 7 added points for another problem) for honorable mention. Our team was 74th out of 96 countries this year.

The last time the Philippines had a silver medal was in 1999, a feat achieved by Jeremy Hobearing Lee (a second a bronze medal in last year's IMO).

(To be concluded next)

Email the author at blessfund@inbox.com.

How to craft a perfect contract

THE CENTER for Global Best Practices is holding the two-day seminar "Best Practices in Crafting Local And International Commercial Contracts Aug. 9-6 at The Peninsula, Makati City.

The Mandaluyong Continuing Legal Education-accredited program covers working commercial contracts Authorities on contract law will discuss topics ranging from the basics of contracts, conduct negotiations, bidding/pre-qualification, special stipulations, controversial clauses and provisions in credit transactions and procurement contracts both in the local and international contexts.

New topics like model templates and special clauses in demand-making and other contracts will also be discussed.

The program is designed for lawyers, lawyers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, traders, board directors, division managers, consultants and business stakeholders.

Statutory speakers are lawyers Teresa A. Gatmaitan, managing partner of Gatmaitan and Ureta Law Office and professorial lecturer in commercial law in the University of the Philippines; Jose A. Ureta, managing partners, Ureta Law Offices and professorial lecturer in governments contracts at Ateneo de Manila University; and Ma. V. Lopez, asset protection law expert, author and three-time winner of the National Book Awards given annually by the Manila Critics Circle and the National Book Development Board.

Prerequisites is required as seats are limited. Discounts are available for groups of three or more.

Call (632) 449-8427/28 or visit www.cgbp.org.

THE FIRST SONA OF PRESIDENT BENIGNO C. AQUINO III

For the people and of the people in the People's House

WHO IS representing you? Today, when the President delivers his first State of the Nation Address before a joint session of the 15th Congress, who among the legislators in his audience is in there looking out for you?

Well, there are 267 members of the House of Representatives, 218 of them newly elected first-termers, and 23 members, 12 of them also newly voted.

They in Congress not only to listen to the President's address, but, more importantly, to listen for you and to you.

We will have no doubt in this issue and leave the President to say his piece today.

IN THE KNOW

In his first State of the Nation Address (Sona), President Benigno Aquino III will give the Congress and the people an update on the national situation, continuing a presidential tradition enshrined in the Constitution.

Dating back 24 years, the President's Sona was originally mandated by Article VII, Section 5 of the 1935 Philippine Constitution: "The President shall from time to time give to the Congress information on the state of the nation, and recommend to its consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

This provision was copied from the United States Constitution, the Philippines being under American rule at the time.

Carrying on the tradition, the 1987 Philippine Constitution required the President to address the Congress at the opening of its regular session on the fourth Monday of July (Article VII, Section 23 and Article VI, Section 15).

In his first Sona in July 1987, President Corazon Aquino spoke before the stacked chambers of the House and Senate after years of martial law and laid down her government priorities to make the transition to democracy irreversible, autonomy and some defense spending.

In 1992, President Fidel Ramos talked about reform, change and growth, and proclaimed amnesty for 4,000 communist rebels. In 1998, as well as in 2001, he defended the review of the cases of political detainees.

In 1998, President Joseph Estrada said: "Bangkarote ang pamahalaan" (The government is bankrupt. He then proposed cutbacks in government spending, forced savings in every agency and the abolition of pork barrel.

In 2001, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presented three Payapa trips and revealed her four-point antipoverty program: line-reformism, a modernized agricultural sector, social bias toward the disadvantaged, and higher consciousness for governance and morality. — Jaime Laya de Guzman, Inquirer Research

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House gallery of new members

18th Congress Other First-Timers

Photos compiled by Inquirer Northern Luzon, Inquirer Southern Luzon, Inquirer Visayas, Inquirer Mindanao and Inquirer Research.

* Party affiliation as declared in certificate of candidacy for the May 13, 2019 Congressional and House elections

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The fastest way to Malacañang Palace is through Congress

FROM LEGISLATORS TO PRESIDENTS: (top, L-R) Quezon, Osmeña, Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay, Garcia; (bottom, L-R) Macapagal, Marcos, Estrada

WORK in Congress, then work in Malacañang. This has been the political career path of President Aquino and other notable members of Congress.

Before he was elected president in May, Mr. Aquino served as representative of the second district of Tarlac for nine years (1998-2007) and as senator for three years (2007-2010).

Eleven other former representatives, senator or both also became presidents. They were Manuel L. Quezon (1935-1944), Jose P. Laurel (1943-1945), Sergio Osmeña (1944-1946), Manuel Roxas (1946-1948), Elpidio Quirino (1948-1953), Ramon Magsaysay (1953-1957), Carlos P. Garcia (1957-1961), Diosdado Macapagal (1961-1965), Ferdinand Marcos (1965-1986), Joseph Estrada (1998-2001) and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (2001-2010).

Congress appears to be the quickest way to the presidency as well, but two of the country's presidents since the Commonwealth elections in 1935 had been legislators.

This tradition of having a member or former member of Congress elected president was broken only by Edsa 1 that installed Corazon Aquino as president in 1986. Followed by the election of career military officer Fidel Ramos six years later.

The presidency was Aquino's first government position. She was a full-time housewife until the assassination of her husband, martial law critic and opposition leader former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino in August 1983. Her wife became the opposition's unifying force and leader.

Ramos was a retired military general who served as Aquino's cabinet as defense secretary.

Aside from presidents, Congress has also given the Philippines all of its vice presidents since the Commonwealth, except the current one, Jejomar Binay.

Among Batasan vice Presidents, Quirino, Pelaez, Macapagal, Fernando Lopez, Garcia, Macapagal, Ferdinand Pelaez, Salvador Laurel, Estrada, Macapagal-Arroyo and Binay.

Diosdado Macapagal was a congressman when he ran for president in 1961.

Aquino was elected to six terms.

While Aquino's trip to Malacañang was an endless, the other presidents who made the move from the legislature to the executive branch had their run on the top post at most three terms after they entered politics.

Marcos, for one, was quite convinced that Congress was the right stepping stone to the presidency when he entered politics in 1949, he told Boots Monte recently. "Three out your congressmen now and I'll give you candidates President in 20 years."

He was elected representative of Ilocos Norte for three terms. In 1959, he was elected senator and, in 1965, became his own president.

Two years later, he declared on his campaign platform to become president of the Philippines even before the 20 years were up.

Before Marcos declared martial law that resulted in years of dictatorship, political parties looked for the so-called "presidential timber," or someone with the qualities to be the country's leader, in Congress.

After he declared martial law, Marcos suspended Congress and became a one-man legislature, issuing presidential decrees, letters of instructions, general orders and proclamations that had the force of law.

Aquino's greatest legacy, the restoration of democracy after years of dictatorship, led to the return of Congress as a coequal branch of government to the executive and judicial branches. It seemed to have also regained its traditional role as the training ground for future presidents.

The three presidents after Marcos—Ramos, Estrada and Mrs. Macapagal-Arroyo—all former lawmakers.

In the May elections, the top four presidential contenders—Mr. Aquino, Estrada, Manuel Villar and Gilbert Teodoro—were also members or former members of Congress.

Villar, who served as Senate president and House speaker, has returned to the Senate seat Teodoro was representative of Tarlac's first district for three terms.

Aluzerva Gonzales
Inquirer Research

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President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III with Agriculture Secretary and ACPC Chair Proceso J. Alcala

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